

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

February 3, 2021

The group met at the church and on a conference call. Pastor Tom played a video called Even If by Mercy Me.

Prayer list read and prayed over.

John 8: 37 -47

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. 39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. 41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. 46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? 47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

After reading the entire passage, Pastor Tom explained that Jesus was still in dialogue with the Jewish religious leaders. It is a testimonial of the rising tension between Jesus and the Jewish leaders. Much like today where there is rising tension between the world and traditional orthodox Christianity. Then Pastor Tom posed this question:

Do you feel traditional (conservative) Christians are being ostracized today?

There is a parallel between today and Jesus talking to these religious leaders. There are some groups who are causing problems/tensions to others 'associated' with God.

Verses 37 and 38

I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. 38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

*Jesus knows the intent of what Jewish leaders are doing. He knew their history and their claim of being from Abraham. But Jesus also knows Abraham! And He knows us and when our thoughts, our hearts and the motivations of our actions.

*Jesus cuts to the heart of the matter because His Word is Truth. Truth is a hard thing to accept... a heart that is sinsick does not want to hear the Truth.

[*Pastor Jon added this note from his Bible: "All Jews are natural descendents of Abraham but not all Jews are necessarily Abraham's spiritual posterity" References: Romans 9: 6 - 8 and Galatians 13: 6 - 14.]

John 3: 19 -21

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

*Jesus said that He was the Light of the World, that Light came into darkness, the world in sin.

*Men have loved darkness more than light.

*Do you believe that people love to do what they shouldn't do?

*This is similar to the parable of the Rich Man. He did it all, had it all but couldn't sell his possessions to follow Jesus. Sadly, people don't want to give up the darkness! Shana deals with broken people everyday at the courthouse. They think drugs will fix all their problems. This leads to lies, excuses and not taking responsibility for their actions. It's not a question of knowing what is right or wrong or it's just a habit of doing wrong. Tim brought up the verse in Matthew about a nation divided against itself.

Back to the verses in John: They talk about 2 worlds, the spiritual and earthly. These 2 worlds collide when an unseen battle is seen. The Jewish

religion (earthly) is colliding with Jesus (spiritual) and when there is a collision, there is always damage.

Verse 39 and 40

They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. 40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

*Now the Jews go back to their lineage. There are leaders who claim to be good, devout in relation to the church. But their actions are completely contradictory to their doctrines. For example, couples living together or same sex marriages...just do not line up with Biblical doctrines. They claim one thing but the Bible says something else. This collision results in damage. We can love everyone in Christ but can't justify their sin. This is what the Jews were doing....justifying their sin.

*The Jews had altered the truth in this way: Abraham was given the promise of a nation.

Genesis 12: 1 and 2

Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

*This is the Abrahamic Covenant. Abraham was the patriarch of the Jewish people but Jews were not given a 'free pass' in life.

Luke 12: 46 - 48

46 The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

*Because you are a member of the church and have heard the Gospel preached, you have even more responsibility to act on that Truth.

Verses 41 through 45

Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. 42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. 43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. 44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. 45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

*In verse 41 Jews claimed that Abraham was their Father but in verse 44 Jesus claimed that the devil was their Father.

*It is an unseen force in what is happening here: spiritual verse earthly or devil causing division, anger, discord and lies: And the lies become so ingrained in us that after a while it's hard to remember what the Truth is. Believers have been lied to for so long, sometimes they don't see the Truth.

*Jesus said that Satan is the Father of all lies. So if we are lying, the source is the devil. Lies have infested us.

*To know the truth, one has to have a standard. For example, if the speed limit is 45 and you go over that you have broken that law and are subject to the penalty of the law.

*So when we break the Law of God, we are subject to the penalty of the Law of God. But thank God for His grace! Because we don't have a standard based on our merit (good works) nor could we meet that type of standard. If you don't meet that kind of standard there is no prize. But Jesus paid our penalty with His life.

*Good people with Good intentions won't get into the pearly gates.

Verse 46 and 47

Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me? 47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

*Who wouldn't believe who Jesus is?

Hebrews 4: 14 - 16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

*Because we cannot keep the standard, Jesus took on flesh, was tested and tempted, passed the test perfectly and we are now covered by His blood. We can ask for mercy.

1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

*All of us who have accepted Jesus Christ see things differently, by a different light and Jesus is the ultimate judge.

*We can sit in smugness like the Jewish leaders but there is a lot of foolishness going on. Lots of folks who do not believe think the Bible is make believe. They say - you go ahead and believe what you want but I don't want to hear it.

Pastor Tom mentioned the poem "The Hound of Heaven" in which the Lord will never leave the trail of you.

*People who know the truth and don't do the truth are the most miserable people in the world.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*