

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

December 30, 2020

John 7:45 - 53

45 Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? **46** The officers answered, Never man spake like this man. **47** Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? **48** Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? **49** But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed. **50** Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) **51** Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth? **52** They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. **53** And every man went unto his own house.

Pastor Tom quickly reviewed where we had left off 2 weeks ago. Three things we have to deal with: jealousy, misunderstanding and doubt. The Pharisees had sent officers, people in authority, to bring Jesus in to confront Him. These officers are now reporting to the Pharisees with a central theme: There will always be someone who tries to disprove Jesus.

Verses 45 and 46

“Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have ye not brought him? 46 The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.”

Matthew 5:17 -18

“17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. 18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.”

*These are Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount. “Jot and tittle” means that every small detail has received attention. Every comma and period has been inspected.

*We can take away from this the fact that every word that Jesus said will come to pass and every word that is in the Bible will happen.

*If the theme is so, that there will always be someone who is trying to disprove Jesus, it will be fruitless because it is impossible to disprove Jesus!

*But it was the officer's mission to bring Jesus back to the Pharisees (see John 7:32) but they failed when they returned empty-handed.

*When the officers were questioned they answered truthfully that they had never heard anyone speak like Jesus. They were overwhelmed by the sense of Truth in what He said. They were taken aback by Jesus' words and so couldn't bring Him back.

*Now - would we have the strength to stand up for Jesus or our faith and not back down (recant) to someone who challenged us? What if sticking to our faith meant it would cost us a job, a friend, our life?

*Remember that God will give us that strength where and when we need it. Even supernatural strength in times of crisis.

*These officers would have known that failure of their mission could cost them - but even these non-believers could not go against the power of the Truth of the Word of God. In the verse from Matthew, even til the end of the earth, all things in the Bible shall be fulfilled.

*No one ever has or ever will speak like Jesus did!

Pastor Tom reflected on the 'snake-oil' preachers who take words out of the Bible, twisting them to benefit themselves.

*God allowed Job to be tested to see if his faith was genuine. The proverb that deals with being content should be a lesson all Americans need.

*If the Holy Spirit is in you, the charlatans will be revealed. They will not be giving Jesus the glory and so they are not of God!

*The fruit of Jesus' words is always life/life eternal. When there is preaching outside of that, check that preacher and beware.

Verses 47 and 48

“Then answered them the Pharisees, Are ye also deceived? 48 Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him?”

*If you are fervent about your beliefs, someone is going to challenge you:

Why would you give 100% to this faith?

Why would you spend an hour on the phone for Bible Study?

Why would you watch a church service video on Sunday Morning?

Why would you pray when an impossible situation arises?

Verse 49

“But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed.”

*This is still the Pharisees speaking. They know that they are educated and know what the Scriptures (from what we know as the Old Testament) say about the Messiah who is to come. But they are thinking that others who listen to Jesus are not as smart as they are.

*If you are depending on your own knowledge then you are not depending on God!

Hebrews 11:1 and 6

“1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

“6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

*Faith is essential in your walk with God. We cannot please God without faith. If you do not have faith, then your goal must be to depend on yourself.

[This quote was in a devotion I read: “Faith never knows where it is being led, but loves and knows the One who is leading” - Oswald Chambers]

Revelation 22:19

“ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

*This verse is very powerful . It is a last warning near the very end of the Bible.

*There are dire consequences if we take away or add to what the Scriptures say. This is what the Pharisees were doing.

*We should also be warned not to try to make the Scriptures say what we want for our own gain. If something makes sense, don't try to make more sense of it!

Verse 50 and 51

“Nicodemus saith unto them, (he that came to Jesus by night, being one of them,) 51 Doth our law judge any man, before it hear him, and know what he doeth?”

*Nicodemus was told by Jesus that we must be born again and he must have taken those words to heart and believed who Jesus was. As the other Pharisees are wanting to kill Jesus, Nicodemus is defending Him. He had the boldness to back Jesus and convict the Pharisees with their own law - that a person deserves a fair trial.

*Most of the time when you argue with someone, it doesn't have good results. Instead of arguing, just come back with Words from the Bible because they are powerful words. You can plant seeds to whet the appetites of people to want more and leave the rest to God. For instance, Sherri gave the grandkids all the Daily Bread Devotional. And as Lisa Holgash reminded in a Children's Message: You catch'em and God cleans'em! Even sending Christmas cards with the real Christmas message whenever we can.

Pastor Tom also told us about the girl at Giant Eagle who he spoke with and prayed with a couple weeks ago. She thanked him and wanted to give him a hug the next time she saw him in the store. It is our privilege not a duty to plant seeds where ever we go to people who are in dark places.

*Much like the parable of the talents: if we bury our talents or the Word of God we are not sharing it or giving it a chance to grow.

Verses 52 and 53

“They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. 53 And every man went unto his own house.”

*Pharisees are using the same old story/argument: That Jesus was from Galilee and no prophecies say that the Messiah would come from Galilee. But they hadn't done their research because Jesus was actually born in Bethlehem and Micah 5:2 is that prophecy.

*So they all went home with absolutely nothing accomplished!

*Hopefully this is not how the church is viewed: Lots of words but no actions. Just going home with nothing done.

Pastor Tom opened up discussion:

Rita chimed in, noting that in verse 46, Jesus was very charismatic, drawing people to Him. But the anti-Christ is described like this as well and is able to deceive us believers. We all must be very cautious!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!