

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 7, 2021

Pastor Tom opened with a quote from Charles Stanley:

“Whatever difficulty is on your mind, it’s spiritual at its roots. Whether you realize it or not. You need Jesus. Therefore, let Him take care of your deepest spiritual need, and the rest will follow.

Then Pastor Tom summarized David Stains’ sermon at the Good Friday Service last week:

How there is division in the church when people turn from their commitment from God.

John 10: 19 - 31

19 There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. **20** And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him? **21** Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind? **22** And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter. **23** And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. **24** Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. **25** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. **26** But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **30** I and my Father are one. **31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Verses 19 - 21

19 There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.
20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

21 Others said, These are not the words of him that hath a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?

*There is division because of Jesus and His sayings (what He spoke about)

The 2 sides:

1. Says He is of the devil (not God) and he is a lunatic - why would you want to follow/listen to Him?
2. Says He has to be from God because a devil cannot open blind eyes referencing Jesus healing the blind man in Chapter 9.

*Doesn't it seem like there is division everywhere we turn today? Going back to the devotional from Charles Stanley, the root cause is our rebellion against God's Word.

*This rebellion began in Genesis when God told Adam about eating from the tree but Adam chose to rebel against God's Word. And it was just Adam who rebelled because He was the one responsible to his relationship with God...not Eve.

*Some examples of division/rebellion we see today:

1. Politics - we have allowed politicians to make rules that are not God's rules.
2. Churches - the root of church division is rebellion against God's Words. We think we can rewrite God's commandments. David Stains brought up how from the Bishops on down -somehow they think they can reinterpret God's Holy Word.
3. Families - only 47% of US families are affiliated with a church. Families fall apart/ are broken because God called out Adam, the man, the head of the home.

*So if the men have the responsibility to lead families, then they are the shepherds of the family. And we learned that if you want to be a shepherd then you have to go through the Good Shepherd.

Verses 22 - 31

22 And it was at Jerusalem the feast of the dedication, and it was winter.

23 And Jesus walked in the temple in Solomon's porch. **24** Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly. **25** Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. **26** But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. **27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. **29** My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. **30** I and my Father are one. **31** Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

*The big question in this passage is 'Are you the Christ?'

*Yet we all must answer this question. Do you think there are still people who struggle with this? Do you think some people don't want to answer or don't want to know because then they would be responsible/accountable to God? But we must tell people that the evidence for Jesus being the Christ is overwhelming. And the rejection of that evidence goes back to the rebellion we've been talking about.

*In verse 25 (above) Jesus told the Jewish leaders...I told you who I am and you did not believe.

Pastor Tom hopes in the years he has served at Mt. Olive Church that he has made it clear who Jesus is and has told us repetitively. But some have chosen (by God's gift of free will to us) not to believe who Jesus is.

*Jesus said the works He did (and is still doing) are a testimony to the truth of God's Word. The Bible (Word) is a witness to who He is. But the Jewish leaders still did not see the truth because they are not His Sheep (verse 26).

*One of the hardest sayings in the Book of John are in these verses:

In any church setting, there will be sheep who are not Jesus' sheep. Why? Because to be a sheep of Jesus Christ one must go through the

Good Shepherd (Jesus!). Someone can be a good person, give money, have their name on the roll and still not be a sheep of Jesus Christ.

Discussion followed with examples of couples who bring a baby to be baptized and then not following through with their commitment to God to be in church with the child. In essence, they are lying when they give their vows at the baptism and this has dire consequences. Marlin added his comments about hypocrites at church and how outsiders don't like this or use it as an excuse but church is the place where hypocrites need to be able to learn what Truth really is.

Concluding: If we were all Jesus' sheep there would be no division in churches. There may be disagreements about some non-eternal issues. We could have different viewpoints and both be correct! So we could agree to disagree on non-essential topics.

Pastor Tom then compared worldly benefit packages with God's Benefit Package:

1. We are guaranteed eternal life because of Jesus' Resurrection
2. No man can take that promise away from you
3. Humans have no power over God
4. Jesus is God!

*The Jews reaction to these truths: They wanted to stone Jesus for having the best benefit in the whole world (And out of this world!) The division/rebellion of the Jews resulted in wanting to kill the Word of God.

Opening up for comments, Pastor Tom encouraged Marlin (and others) to keep listening to the Holy Spirit and speak up in any situation.

Others commented:

It is easy to make Jesus our Savior but tougher to make Him our Lord.

Some parents think baptism is a protection from bad things happening to their children.

We cannot make decisions for our adult children - that responsibility is on them. We can only pray and encourage good decisions.

Jesus will be faithful whether young parents are faithful to vows or not.

We won't get people to become Christians by being Chief Priests or scribes.

More discussion on issues we do not understand about family commitments and than just needing a church for a funeral or baptism.

May the Lord watch between me and thee

While we are absent one from the other.

Goodnight everyone!
