

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting
December 16, 2020

Pastor Tom had us all Press *6 to mute and invited us to unmute to interact anytime.

John 7: 32 - 44

32 The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him. 33 Then said Jesus unto them, Yet a little while am I with you, and then I go unto him that sent me. 34 Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come. 35 Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? 36 What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come? 37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) 40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. 41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? 43 So there was a division among the people because of him. 44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

Pastor Tom listed 3 topics from this Scripture that we all have to deal with:

1. Jealousy - The Pharisees and Chief Priests
2. Misunderstanding - Jesus' Words
3. Doubt - which comes from jealousy and misunderstanding

1. JEALOUSY

*When you read the Bible in context and see Jesus' interaction with the religious leaders, the conflict comes from jealousy but they tried to hide that with religion.

Verse 32

“The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him. “

*The people were beginning to believe in Jesus so the Pharisees got more jealous. Murmuring could be called the social media of the 1st century.

*So the Pharisees' solution is to send officers (someone with authority) to lay hands on Jesus (to capture Him).

Jealousy has been a problem from long ago:

Isaiah 14:12 - 16

“12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. 16 They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms;”

*Traditionally, accepted as how Satan fell from grace, although not all theologians think this way.

*Throughout this passage Satan is saying, I, I, I will be like the Most High. Lots of I, but the bottom line is that Lucifer wanted to be God Himself: All

that got him was being brought down to hell, even beside the pit. This was Satan's jealousy of God.

*The Pharisees had the same issue with Jesus. And we all deal with it at one time or another.

Mark 7: 20 - 23

"20 And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. 21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, 22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: 23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man."

*Our sinful nature is what comes out of men.

Covetousness-----leads to-----Envy-----leads to-----Jealousy

*All evil things come from within and these defile a man. This is our sin nature. Without pointing fingers, we know that our sin nature can rile up in all of us. So we have to deal with jealousy as any other sin. We must learn to be content with all things we have. So we must confess any jealousy to be cleansed from that sin.

2. MISUNDERSTANDING

*Jesus speaks in spiritual terms but the Pharisees hear in human terms. They didn't want to hear what He had to say. So they took Jesus' words out of context and all that did was to create confusion, misunderstanding which leads to rejection.

*We are at odds with God's Spirit and our sin nature. When we are in rebellion we do not want to hear what God says; it offends our sin nature and we want to shut it down.

*When the Word is not taken as Truth, it causes misunderstanding and unbelief. And when the Word is taken out of context it causes division.

Verses 37 & 38

“ 37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. “

*If you are not taking Jesus' Word as spiritual, then it doesn't make sense. We cannot understand it by human terms.

*We have to be careful how we present the Gospel to others. If you are talking to someone who does not know the Lord, it is best to use simple terms. They need to know the basics, nothing heavy.

*But we here at Bible Study need to dive into the deep end of the Word to study it. But don't lead others into a misunderstanding or an argument.

3. DOUBT

Verses 40 - 44

“40 Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. 41 Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? 42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? 43 So there was a division among the people because of him. 44 And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.”

*Doubt is the fruit of the devil's deception:

1. You cannot take a verse out of context to say what you want.
2. You cannot speak the Truth if you do not know the Truth.

*Yes, the Old Testament Scripture says that the Messiah has to come from Bethlehem. But the Pharisees did not have the New Testament to study and find out that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. They only knew that He lived and had grown up in Nazareth. They only had a partial truth.

*Many people only know part of the Bible today. Or more and more people know nothing about the Bible. Then in many cases, the church does not help explain things on that level which then causes division (Verse 43). Or we are already a divided church and this adds to confusion of nonbelievers.

Pastor Tom referred to the funeral he would be doing tomorrow: the family is like many others. It is divided over non-eternal issues. It is OK to agree to disagree if the issues are not affecting their salvation. All families have some division and certainly the world itself has division. The pandemic is certainly divisive.

*Whenever there is division there is doubt right around the corner. Now and then, there is doubt if God's Word is true. The first example comes in the Garden of Eden, when Satan causes Adam and Eve to doubt God's Word about the fruit on the Tree.

*There seems to be an effort in society today to get rid of Jesus altogether - to suppress His Word (Hitler, North Korea, China)

*So if Satan can get us to doubt if the Word is Truth...

The end of this sentence will be completed next week at Bible Study!

Pastor Tom then opened the line for discussion:

Referring to verse 38 - this is our 'gut feeling' in our stomach, when the Holy Spirit flows out of us.

Then everyone said goodnight on a snowy, snowy evening, happy that no one had to drive home.

