

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

April 14, 2021

John 10: 32 - 42

32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. 34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? 37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him. 39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, 40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. 41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. 42 And many believed on him there.

Pastor Tom reviewed how the Jewish leaders were ready to stone Jesus in verse 31 last week and then read the entire passage for tonight's study.

Verse 32

Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

*Jesus poses a question to the Jewish leaders...which good work are you stoning me for? What did I do wrong that you reject me?

*What are some reasons people today reject Jesus? Why aren't people seeking Jesus in droves during these stressful times? Discussion followed with a variety of answers:

-some folks would answer if God is so good, why is all this bad stuff happening....which we can answer with the devil's role in causing bad things to happen

-God may be doing radical things to get our attention as He did often in the Old Testament.

-Another reason could be that people do not want to lose control of their lives and surrender to Jesus and God's Way in His Word.

*The root cause is sin/brokenness from God. Jesus is clear about people that it is our nature to love the darkness more than the Light. It was NOT God's original plan for His creation to be separated from Him. But the sin in Genesis broke that fellowship God wanted to have.

*Jesus had reminded the Jewish leaders that He had only done good works. He only offers us today a promise of new life as well as eternal life. Who would want to turn that down or reject Jesus? There is nothing bad about what Jesus offers us...now or then.

Verse 33

The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.

*But the Jews were not stoning Jesus for His good works, but for blasphemy because Jesus thinks He is God.

Pastor Tom reminded us what Nancy had stated last week: It's easy to make Jesus your Savior (believe in His good works, including our salvation) but it's hard to make Him your Lord (committing to His teachings and listening to the Holy Spirit daily). Justification takes place at the cross making our sins as far away as the east is from the west. Sanctification means being more like Jesus and less like you. We can't have it both ways: pretending to be 'church-y' and not be 'Jesus-y'. And we must realize that we will make mistakes (often) but we have to 'get back on the horse' again and continually be thankful to Jesus for our eternal life AND make Him Lord of our lives.

Verse 34 - 36

Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? 35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; 36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?

The reference to 'gods' is found in Psalm 82:6

82 God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

2 How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah.

3 Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy.

4 Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked.

5 They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course.

6 I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

7 But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.

8 Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.

*Jesus pointed out that in the Scriptures, which the Jews should be knowledgeable in, that God called out the leaders who were not being very fair nor doing what He had told them to do.

Pastor Tom thinks we have made ourselves into gods by trying to be in control of our lives, taking care of things on our own. (Refer back to reasons why people are not returning to Jesus during this stressful time.)

Both Pastor Tom and the DS deal with a lot of people with a 'god' complex.

*Jesus turned the tables on the Jews by saying they were the one who were lying because they didn't believe Him. We lie (blaspheme) when we say Jesus is not who He says He is. When we do not submit to His Godness and Sovereignty.

*Muslims, who are dedicated enough to fast from sun-up to sun-down during Ramadan as well as to kneel to pray 3 times a day, sort of show us up in how they believe in their God.

*Jesus says that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and we must believe that OR Jesus is a liar.

*The Jews, God's Chosen People (US!), somehow, someway have gotten a 'god' complex in church: when we reject Jesus and say He is not who he says he is, moves us close to committing the unpardonable sin which is rejecting the truth of the Holy Spirit.

*If we someone passes from this earth without Jesus (by rejecting Him...same as never accepting Him), there will be NO HOPE for that person. That is why the church's mission (the Great Commission) is to find anyone with breath and share Jesus with them.

Verse 37 - 38

If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. 38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

*In short:

If I'm not doing the work of God, my Father, then don't believe in me.

But, if I am doing the works of God, my Father, then believe in me.

Verse 39 - 42

Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand, 40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode. 41 And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracle: but all things that John spake of this man were true. 42 And many believed on him there.

*Even though the Jews had had this long dialog with Jesus, they still try to take Him again. But Jesus walks right out, escaping. Jesus was saying, "Not today! This is not the time nor place for you to have your way." We need to get into the habit of saying these same words to the devil.

* So then Jesus goes to the area near the Jordan River where John the Baptist ministered. Many of John's followers were still there. They knew that John had done no miracles. We must remember that John didn't do any miracles, pastors don't do any miracles and we don't do any miracles. Jesus is the only one who can do miracles. But John the Baptist had talked about Jesus and the coming of the Messiah and what he said came true! So many at that spot believed in Jesus.

*We are not John the Baptist but all we do or say can influence people. Be cautious though not to get a 'god complex'. For example:

The Soup Ministry - makes really good soup but the goal is to take Jesus out of church and let people see that Jesus is working in our midst and loves them.

Pastor Tom's Sermons or Bible Studies- make people really think about Jesus but it has to be the Holy Spirit convicting/speaking to someone to make changes in their lives.

Men's Group - They have seen power in prayer lately but their goal is that people would see Jesus around a campfire and start something burning in their hearts for the Lord.

*Pride comes before a fall. Our desire for control can take God out of the goal.

[Referencing our influence on people, in David Jeremiah's Turning Point Devotional on 4/16/21 he quoted Blaise Pascal:

"The serene beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world next to the power of God."]

Goodnight!
