

## Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

August 5, 2020

### John 5: 19 - 24

**19** Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. **20** For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. **21** For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. **22** For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: **23** That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. **24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

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Pastor Tom opened by asking - Is there any relevance from what we've been studying to our situation today? Discussion will follow.

We backed up to verse 19 to continue from last week. Pastor Tom posed another question - Who is the devil? Is he a real being or an imaginary evil? Answers quickly concluded: He is evil. He has a little power but is not as powerful as God. He seeks to pull us away from God in order to worship him. He wants to be God.

### Verse 19 continued

*"Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise."*

Then Pastor asked - Why does God allow things like the pandemic to occur in this world? Again several answers - God uses bad things to help instill faith in us. It would not be God's plan but we live in a broken/ fallen world. God allows us to make choices; some of which lead to bad results that the world has to deal with.

Pastor took us to Luke 4: 1 - 4 to tie in this discussion about the devil and evil.

### **Verse 1**

*“And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”*

\*Jesus had just been baptized in the presence of the Father and the Holy Spirit (picture the trinity). Just after this holy experience, a high point, the devil is ready to pounce and test Jesus in the wilderness. (Many of us agreed that this is a pattern in our lives as well.) Jesus was led to the wilderness for a purpose, a reason.

### **Verse 2**

*“Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered.”*

\*This verse shows Jesus' human side...being hungry!

### **Verse 3**

*“And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.”*

\*The devil didn't have to ask if Jesus was God, he knew who Jesus was already.

### **Verse 4**

*“And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.”*

\*Jesus uses scripture to answer the devil each time he is tempted as a rebuke to the devil. John 1:1 tells us that Jesus is the WORD and inspired the WORD. So Jesus (the WORD) rebukes the devil with the written WORD (inspired by Jesus).

\*We should not even engage with the devil but we should resist him through the power of the Holy Spirit and he will flee. The devil thinks he's got an edge because Jesus is half human. But His defense was the written word. (Same for us...our defense against the devil tempting us is the scriptures and where 2 or 3 are gathered, Jesus is in the midst)

\*How then are we to tap into this power of the Holy Spirit?

### **Ephesians 6: 10 - 12**

*“10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

\*This answers the opening question about the relevancy of our study to happenings of today.

Pastor Tom then led us in a discussion about how the older generation (represented by the majority of people at Bible study) were brought up in homes which, even if they were not church-going homes, their values and morals were family and community based. The younger generation has not had the upbringing nor gathered the knowledge and values based on the Bible. Surprisingly, 85% of young people raised within the church do not have a commitment to the church now as they get older. So because a foundation of faith is formed in young children, not during a crisis, many of these young people are finding it difficult to function and fight the evil that's looking to seek and attack them. And they will be voting decision makers!

Pastor Jon interjected from I John 2: 15 - 17

*“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

*16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

*17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”*

\*The 3 lusts listed here reflect the 3 ways Eve was tempted in Genesis and the same 3 ways Jesus was tempted in the wilderness.

He then referred back to Pastor Tom's discussion on the generations that did not have the roots or foundation in the church to formulate a God-centered value system. Then taking the discussion back to John chapter 5 where Jesus said (paraphrased) "I'm only doing what my Father taught me to do!"

If your father never taught you how to deal with crisis situations with a God-centered value system, how will you know to lean on your faith in times such as these.

### **Verses 20 - 23 (John 5)**

*“20 For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. 22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

*23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”*

\*Quickly read through these verses.

### **Verse 24**

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”*

\*Again the phrase ‘verily, verily’ reminds us to pay close attention to the information coming. This verse contains a promise:

If you hear the word and believe then you have everlasting life.

First you have to listen when you hear the word and then you are accountable for believing it or not.

There is no question - If you believe the word, you will have eternal life with no condemnation.

If you do not believe the word, you will not have eternal life and you will have condemnation.

This promise is a sweet assurance that we can pass from death to life...if we hear and believe the word of God.

Pastor Tom related some thoughts from the funeral he attended last week. One idea stood out:

We must make our decision about Jesus during our life, not during our death.

One last thought.... The emphasis of being “**in** the Word” (not skimming **over** the Word) is essential in our growth, especially at this difficult time. And even the Word can be difficult like some chords on the guitar (like the B flat and E flat chords from Sunday’s song ) But when you do play the harder chords it creates beautiful harmony. When we get in the Word, we create harmony with Jesus. This is difficult because it conflicts with our will.

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