

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

June 17, 2020

Pastor Tom shared an interesting poem from Steve Chapman's devotion book called Look at Life from a Deer Stand. The poem titled, "Jack", was about a dog relentlessly trying to break away from its leash to chase cars. Finally, poor Jack did break away and 'caught the car' with a very sad ending, of course. Pastor Tom likened this story to our nation today...chasing cars with an inevitable ending coming.

Then on to our study:

John 4: 27 - 34

27 And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

31 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat.

32 But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of.

33 Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?

34 Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Verse 27

“And upon this came his disciples, and marvelled that he talked with the woman: yet no man said, What seekest thou? or, Why talkest thou with her?”

*Pastor Tom reviewed from last week that Jesus had just revealed himself to the Samaritan woman.

He would entitle a sermon on this verse “The Mysterious Jesus”

I Corinthians 15: 49 - 51

“49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. 50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,”

*The disciples marvelled (were amazed) at what they saw Jesus doing, but they had enough trust in Him not to ask questions, even though they were thinking them.

*When we find ourselves in tough situations where it is difficult to come up with the words to say, we do not understand what God is doing. It's a mystery to us but we need to trust that God is God and He knows best.

*Pastor Tom noted another devotional, this time from Billy Graham: We get so used to living in a sinful, imperfect world that we cannot imagine God's perfection, holiness. We do not understand His timing or His ways.

Verse 28 & 29

“28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men, 29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”

* This is the woman's testimony. She had been transformed by Jesus' Words and her instinct told her to go tell this to someone. She now sees Him as the Christ. She has had a divine revelation, her eyes had been opened.

*She was so changed that she left her waterpot when she left for town, forgetting what she came for originally. Jesus had changed everything. Old things passed away and all things are new now for her. Life has a whole new meaning, an excitement in her now.

*Scholars believe that this woman had a checkered past because of when she went to the well (on the off hour). But she went back to the men who were talking about her. The very ones who gave her the reputation she had. These men who knew her because she 'knew' them. They wanted to learn about the guy who knew all about her and them!

Verse 30

"Then they went out of the city, and came unto him."

*Her testimony caused a reaction which, later on, caused a revival.

*John Wesley had an experience like this. He said, "Start a fire and others will come just to watch it burn." He felt the Holy Spirit at Aldersgate on May 24, 1738. Then he began preaching in the outdoors to common people which began the Wesleyan Holiness Movement. Doctrine from this movement has influenced Protestant churches in Europe and America ever since.

*Mount Olive's decision to take church outdoors is risky but we will now be in view of the community and we may be a witness/testimony to others driving by or to close neighbors.

*Two side notes:

1. Pray for good weather as we gather to worship on Sunday mornings.
2. Be cautioned that on-line 'church' will not become a convenience. We must not forget about gathering together as the Bible advises.

Verse 31

"In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat."

*Jesus was a man of discipline in several areas:

*He had a strong reason to go through Samaria - the woman's need for transformation

*He often went away to the mountains to be alone in prayer

*He fasted

The disciples had gone to town to get food in the 1st place. Then Jesus turns down their offer for Him to eat something. Was Jesus fasting before His encounter with the woman? Scripturally (Matthew 6:16-18), we are to keep our fasting a secret between us and God, so Jesus may not have told the disciples He was fasting.

*Pastor Tom recalled the time he had fasted when Sherri was having surgery and yet all the women who sat with him in the waiting area were urging him to eat. It was a spiritual and physical relief to him when that time was over.

*So, if Jesus was fasting for this situation with the woman, shouldn't we be denying ourselves at times to know the will of God for a particular reason or season. Perhaps we need to be more like Jesus is times such as we are in nowadays.

Verse 32

"But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of."

*Jesus had no physical food, but he had spiritual food which the disciples didn't understand. Sometimes we just have to humble ourselves and trust in God's ways.

Verse 33

"Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat?"

*Continuing the thought from verse 32, the disciples didn't get it.

*We cannot expect others to understand when you practice Jesus. It will be foreign to them.

I Corinthians 1:18

"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."

*You cannot expect anyone to understand what they do not understand. For example, owners' manuals use lots of words which then have to be translated into the actual experience. Many times it is easier to 'show and tell' than to 'read and do' something.

*To lots of folks, the Bible is just words they don't understand. But if they see Jesus in us, then things make sense to them. So we must "Show and Tell" Jesus!

Verse 34

“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

*Jesus’ explanation of this is that He came to do the Will of God (His Father). That Will is that no one should perish. Jesus’ purpose is to redeem us from sin. When He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, sweating drops of blood, He prayed for God’s Will, not His own. And so it was mandated that He would die on the Cross for us.

Pastor Tom opened the lines for comments:

Conclusion: Trusting in God can be hard when your concern is a loved one.

*May the Lord watch between me and thee,
While we are absent one from the other.*

Announcements

*Sunday, June 21, 2020:

Sunday School Classes on ZOOM @ 9:00AM

Worship Outdoors, weather permitting @ 10:30AM

Bring your own: lawn chairs, masks and Bibles

*Wednesday, June 24, 2020:

Bible Study at the Church @ 6:00PM

Bring your own: Bibles, masks and hand sanitizer(optional)

We will sit throughout the church for social distancing.