

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

October 14, 2020

John 6:43 - 53

43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. 46 Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. 47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. 48 I am that bread of life. 49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. 50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Pastor Tom began with 3 questions for us to think about this evening.

1. Why do people believe they can get to Heaven by a means other than Jesus even though the Bible is very clear about it?
2. How do you personally know you're saved?
3. Why are Jesus' statements about eating His Body and drinking His Blood so difficult to understand? Where is the confusion?

After a quick review from verses 41 and 42 last week, Pastor Tom moved on.

Verse 43

"Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves."

*The Jews did not believe who Jesus claimed he was, there was conflict, controversy.

*There is a constant warning in the church to be in unity. What happens when a church murmurs? (Pastor Tom opened the phone line for responses.)

-the churches start to fall apart; splits occur then there are cliques which never produce unity.

- people move away in from the Word or from the purpose of the church

-people would stop coming and being fed

- It's hard when things are normal but tougher when complaining occurs

*When a body is not taking in nutrients it dies. Spiritually, when we drift away from a contentious church body, we are not being fed and will die spiritually as well.

*Likewise, we need relationships or interactions within the church body to grow and mature. (Time to time, even Jesus needed to be alone. But we cannot live that way all the time.)

Terry added that when a church starts strife with one another it cannot accomplish its mission.

*When we complain about things that are not eternal, we kill (quench) the spirit inside the church.

Verse 44

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."

*This theme is repeated many times in the Book of John.

*People cannot be forced to believe, however, we can be a spiritual influence, a mentor, prayer warrior, and witness to someone who is searching. But it has to be a God thing to change a heart. It has to be initiated by God then the seeker must do something about it. Like when we preach to our kids til we're blue in the face.

*Jesus' unconditional promise is there - those that come to Him, He will raise them up.

Question #1 (Pastor Tom opened the phone lines for responses)

Why do people believe they can get to Heaven by a means other than Jesus even though the Bible is very clear about it?

Barb repeated some of her testimony from Sunday: We may know facts in our heads but until we believe in our hearts we won't change.

Pastor Tom added that the longest journey you can take is the 18 inches from your head to your heart.

Pastor Tom reminded us about the verse in Jeremiah: The heart is deceitfully wicked and cannot be trusted.

Verse 45

"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me."

*These OT prophets were taught by God (the Holy Spirit intervened) before Jesus was born. But there can be a lot of talk. The Holy Spirit must bring the Word to Life. And the Word comes alive when Jesus is in your heart.

*Has a devotional ever touched you personally with just what you needed to hear at that time? Or have you had other "coincidences" or God things? These are the Holy Spirit speaking to you when your heart is right with God.

Verse 46

"Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father."

*Jesus was saying to the Jews - So if you have seen me, you have seen God.

*You can see Jesus in some people in what they do, how they act. Because they act like Jesus, you can see Him.

Verse 47

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life."

Question #2 (Phone lines opened for comments)

How do you personally know you're saved?

-your life changes

-you don't enjoy 'old things' anymore

-you are full of the Holy Spirit

-when you keep on believing longer and longer you gain more and more confidence in what you believe.*

-If you confess your sins, He will be faithful and just to forgive them

*Jesus said, "He that believes in me, had everlasting life.

*There is a difference between head knowledge and heart knowledge.

*But mostly we know we are saved because...Jesus said we are!

In response to this comment *...Pastor Tom feels more ready to die than he did 20 years ago. But he does want to finish good.

*The weaker our bodies become the more we depend on God. And the same way it is with our spiritual walk...The longer we walk with God, the more Satan tries to sway us.

Verse 48

"I am that bread of life."

*We have discussed this already.

Verse 49

"Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead."

*This is where the argument started in Chapter 6.

Those who got the physical food (temporary bread) ---died.

Those who receive physical healing --- still die.

Only those with spiritual food will live forever.

Verses 50 - 53

"50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die. 51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. 52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? 53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."

*This is Jesus' answer to the Jews.

Question #3 (open phone lines)

Why are Jesus' statements about eating His Body and drinking His Blood so difficult to understand? Where is the confusion?

- People look at it as physical eating and drinking and get confused.
- Almost brings up thoughts of cannibalism...I would never do that!
- We as church people have heard these words repeatedly so we 'get it'.

*If it's new to you, it can be very confusing. And sadly, there are a whole lot of people right near us who have not heard the Gospel in order to 'get it'.

*A caution for us: If a preacher you are listening to does not preach one way to heaven they are false teachers and suck in gullible (uneducated, unknowing) people.

Katie added that when she had some questions about heaven she searched books and google. Google answers were confusing, challenging and even frightening.

More on this topic next week.

Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

May the Lord watch between me and thee,

While we are absent one from the other.
