

Mount Olive Wednesday Night Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

November 3, 2021

John 16: 23 - 24

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. **24** Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Verse 23

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

Pastor Tom picked up right where we left off last week, mentioning the importance of a verse that included the words *verily, verily*.

*In previous verses Jesus talks about joy coming after lamenting:

- verse 20 - weeping then sorrow turned to joy
- verse 21 - pain like childbirth then forgotten for the joy that a child is born
- verse 22 - sorrow now but then joy that no one can take away

*The phrase '*in that day*' refers to the time period when Jesus will be on the cross and the disciples cannot ask Him anything. The disciples just don't get this idea and Jesus is speaking in parables (proverbs) to get them to think on their own, to make the connections on their own. We can get this idea because we are on the other side of the Calvary event.

However, there are situations that we go through in life that we do not comprehend. We don't know how to pray or even which road to travel in these difficult situations. For example, Tiffany being a hard worker for the Lord on dangerous mission fields being diagnosed with breast cancer at a young age. You want to say, "Seriously, God?!?!"

Thoughts offered from people at Bible study: Other people can pray for you maybe better than you can know how to pray. And going through those

tough situations makes you more compassionate (and better able to pray) towards others going through similar situations after you.

* The disciples were so focused on the sadness and lamenting losing Jesus, that they didn't grasp the joy that would result from the sadness. Soon they would be able to ask God, the Father, directly without having to go through Jesus. What joy that should have created!

Karen E. says of Pastor Tom that he always knows just what to say at funerals. He feels it is his job to tell the Good News to the broken hearted at the funeral because he can't do anything for the deceased now that they are dead.

Discussion followed concerning some of the cruel things said to survivors of suicide cases. Pastor Tom brought up Matthew 7:7 (Ask, seek and knock) but it is preceded by Matthew 7:1 - Judge not, lest you be judged. Our asking, seeking and finding is based on our NOT judging others.

*This verse deals with those times when we feel we cannot ask God anything because we are so distraught and consumed by our own emotions, we cannot think clearly. (Mention was made of the song "Tears are a Language that God Understands".)

[Pastor Jon offers another verse as a reference to times like these as well:
Romans 8:26 -27

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. **27** And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.]

*In the middle of John 16:23, Jesus wants us to pay close attention (verily, verily) to His next idea: Since Jesus made the sacrifice on the cross and rose again, we no longer need a high priest to intercede and make a sacrifice for us. Because of what Jesus did, we can now go to God anytime, anywhere to ask of Him. The saints of old would have given their eye teeth to go to God freely, anytime or any place. However, this does not make God into Santa Claus. This verse is often taken out of context.

Verse 24

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

*Again, *hitherto* means 'up to this point'. So up to the point of when Jesus goes to Calvary, they can ask him, but after that, they can ask and receive from the Father Himself...for this purpose: That their joy may be full. (not for new cars or money, etc)

Pastor Tom reflected on how his home is such a blessing to him and Sherri, humble as it is. Students from Guatemala thought it was like a mansion. Some of their homes had hard packed dirt floors that they swept.

*We need to just stop whining for a little bit and realize our blessings or that we could have been from a different country where things are not as nice as here in the US.

*Yes, at times we will have sorrow, but if you have Jesus, you will always have the peace that He loves you.

Pastor Tom wrote some thoughts to Tiffany:

- your world will never be the same after this diagnosis
- you will get angry at the situation because you are not in control
- but things will happen that can only be called miraculous and would not be able to happen if not for the cancer
- we have hope in Jesus even with the dark word: cancer.

*Jesus showed the most compassion to every sinner who ever spoke His name.

*The Word of God is alive: it is not just a 2000 year old story. Every verse has meaning to us today!

*During these lamenting, difficult times, (such as Mark and Nancy are going through now and Sue did 2 1/2 years ago) we go from just believing in God to knowing Jesus. And there's the joy!!

Pastor Tom thanked everyone for the chance to have these types of discussions at Bible Study. It helps him understand the message in God's word even better.

He opened the phones for any other comments.

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.
