



Messenger

Welcome! We are glad you chose to worship with us.

Human Impulse or God's Truth?

I followed a discussion thread on Facebook recently, concerning an issue that has embedded itself into the American psyche. It has also kicked through the front doors of the church with a tenacity that makes the most committed disciple fear the judgment of a society that has already made up its mind. Those who are believers and advocate the embracing of the homosexual lifestyle have an interesting way of expressing their opinion. A person I know wrote: "if we continue to advocate for some people being treated as 'less than' others in any way, how can we claim the Gospel as our mandate with any credibility? We're seeing history change before our eyes with regard to same-sex rights; shall we be remembered, once again, as one of the few holdouts clinging to the social equivalent of a flat-earth mentality?" Notice the attempt to direct the conversation. This is the extent of the argument. Anyone who holds to biblical values is as stupid and backwards as someone who believes the earth is flat. That is what change agents do...insult the opposition.

As genuine followers of Christ, our views on every issue must start with Scripture. Those who advocate for the homosexual lifestyle as compatible with Christianity start with civil rights which are then elevated to a status higher than scripture. Even more, the statements of scripture that speak against homosexuality being compatible with Christianity are ignored or reinterpreted. This was the debate in the discussion thread; "The Bible says it's a sin. No, the Bible doesn't say anything about it. It is a normal human impulse. People only believe the Bible speaks against homosexuality because bigots have told us that. Really, human impulse overrides everything else. Science has proven it is normal and so anyone who believes in the old-fashioned interpretations of the Bible is an idiot." These views sound more like the conclusions of the Jesus Seminar, an attempt to create a different Jesus through stating that only 18% of what is attributed to Jesus is actually descriptive of the "real Jesus." The rest is editing by the early church.

Human impulse has never been a solid standard on which to build a strong society. History is littered with the baggage of human impulse. Your life may be scarred as a consequence of human impulse. I think we need to aim higher. Peter reminds us of the folly that follows those who put impulse above self-control (2 Peter 3:1-18). He also teaches us that the things which were written in the past came to fruition, and the things written in Scripture will be the standard for God's judgment. Acceptance and compassion give us the ability to love others, but they are weak principles for interpreting Scripture. Let us be people who are characterized by sound judgment and love others with the love of God. May we not be guilty of redefining the words of Jesus and Scripture to placate the impulses of culture.

CANS –

Service – Doing Our Part - Ephesians 4:15-16

1) What characterizes You? _____ What characterizes US?

2) The Christian Life is _____ & _____.

Three Facts we need to know about being a _____.

I. We are _____ to be servants – Matthew 20:26-28

- _____ my commitment to serve; my _____ purpose.
- Philippians 2:5-8 = Give up your _____ for others.
- Become less so others can be come more.
- In Love (2 Xs) - actions that benefits another. I don't decide about serving based on my personal comfort

II. Every servant is _____.

- Everyone has a _____ – 1 Corinthians 12:15-22
- Ephesians 4:11-12 designates _____.
- Romans 12:3-8 designates gifts that _____ & _____.

III. Discover your _____ and _____ it.

- Find your _____
 - _____ (How has God gifted me?)
 - _____ (passion; What do I love to do?)
 - _____ (What natural talents do I have?)
 - _____ (Where does my personality best suit me to serve?)
 - _____ (What experiences have I had? Pain/opportunities)
- God is like a potter _____ and _____.

Matthew 23:11-12 - God _____ those who serve.

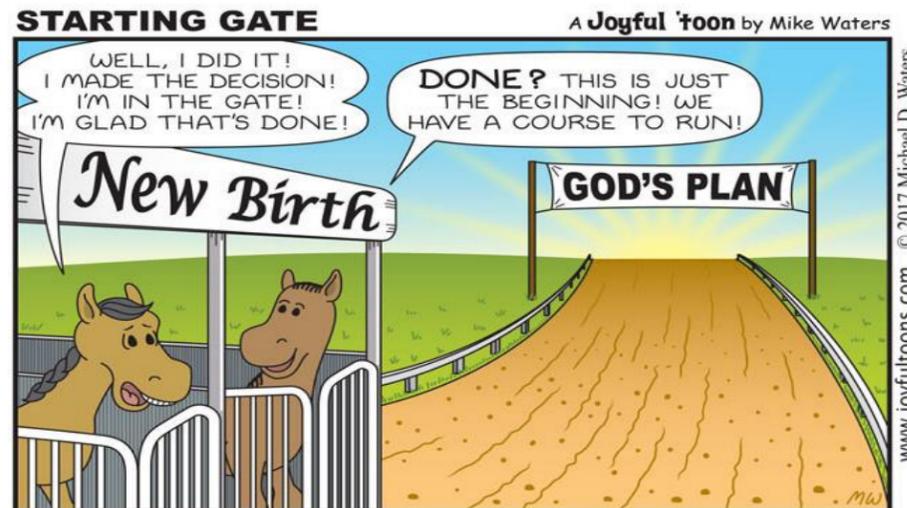
Sermon Summaries

Morning CANS – *Serving: Doing Our Part* – Ephesians 4:15-16, Matthew 20:26-28

There are two actions that Jesus talks about which describe authentic faith. Love for one another (John 13:34-35), and being a servant (Matthew 20:26-28). These are essential for us if we want to be pleasing to God. We could look at serving and loving as separate spiritual disciplines that need to be developed. We could also conclude that serving flows out of a love for God, for fellow Christians and for fellow humans. This is Paul's point in Ephesians 4:15-16. When we live according to truth, serving will be the natural by-product.

Evening *Life Of Joseph – God Remembers* – Genesis 40:1-23

No one likes to be forgotten or likes that feeling of being forgotten. Sometimes we can feel that way when an oversight has been made. Our circumstances make cause us to think that nobody really notices and nobody really cares. This is often true with people, because we are self-centered. We forget because others are not that important. Remembering and caring about others is one of the upgrades that accompanies being a follower of Christ. In learning that God never forgets us, we are able to care and remember others.



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him,
– COLOSSIANS 2:6 NIV

The Speech Test

James speaks of the power of the tongue. He says we can use the same tongue to praise God and curse other people. We have heard such speech. May I suggest that all speech should pass three acid tests before being uttered toward another.

- First, is it true? In Exodus 20:16 God said, "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." An untrue statement about another can destroy that person for good.
- Second, is it needed? The Bible says, "...he who repeats a matter alienates a friend. Whatever we say about another should serve a worthy and noble cause. Otherwise, we should not say it.
- Third, is it kind? "The words of a talebearer are as wounds" (Proverbs 18:8). Nothing cuts more deeply or does more harm than the thoughtless words of a gossip. It grows bigger the more times it is repeated. We should always strive for kindness in all that we say.

By Al Behel -- bulletingold.com

What's in it for God?

Ever wonder why God wants us to obey Him? What exactly does God receive from our faithfulness and obedience? We say that we want to please God and do so by avoiding sin or making a sacrifice in our service to others but how does our improved morality or increased service advantage God? He doesn't need anything nor does our goodness add any advantage to Him—He's above it all anyways.

I believe the answer to this question lies in His character of love. John says that the defining element of His nature is love (1 John 4:16) and this is the first clue that reveals the reason He is pleased when we obey. The second clue is found in Genesis where Moses writes that humans have been created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26). The final insight is the fact that disobedience is the cause that now separates man from God and alters his original God-like nature (Genesis 2:15-17).

When we put these together we realize that when man obeys God it means that He is seeking to become like God as he was first created to be before sinful disobedience marred his likeness of the Divine. This, in turn, pleases God because it means that man is positioning himself (through faithful obedience) for blessings which God, in His love, is eager to provide for those who believe and obey Him. (Ephesians 1:1-14).

So, what's in it for God when we obey Him? The short answer is that our obedience gives Him the opportunity to bless us in love, and blessing us pleases Him.

By: Mike Mazzalongo --- bibletalk.tv

PRAYER REQUESTS

Nate, Alec & Richard Erno: Richard to get his bone marrow match quickly and treatment to be a success; he has SCID. Nate & Alec for strength and guidance.

Carol Ann Burdine her chemo is on hold, hemoglobin very low.

Kathy Cleaveland for the loss of her sister in law Carol Benson.

Wesley Baker (Hixenbaugh's grandson) recovering from eye procedure, it was a success.

Continual Prayers Health Reasons/Treatment

~ **Rusty & Bonnie Parker** many difficulties with Rusty's dementia

~ **Brandon West (Lori Buttons finance)** come to Christ

~ **Suzanne Lacey (friend of Gowers)** kidney and lung cancer.

~ **Brandy Aquafedda (Denise Miler's niece)** cancer treatment.

~ **Carolyn Fields (friend of Larry Miller)** has terminal cancer.

~ **Allen Till (Dolores Buehler's son-in-law)** cancer treatment

~ **Rita Bowden (friend of Sally Guest)** stage 4 cancer.

Our Shut-ins

Marjorie Trammell

Things to Know

POTLUCK

TODAY after morning worship. Join, there is plenty of food.

Men's Retreat

Sept 17th & 18th. Flyers on back table.

Thank You

To the family at Mt Vernon; we are so grateful for all the condolences, kind words, prayers and cards we have received on the passing of my mother, Betty. Thanks so much
What a blessing to be a part of God's family.
Steve & Syble Mann

Schedule of Services

Bible Class	9:30 am
Morning Worship	10:30 am
Evening Worship	6:00 pm
Wed. Ladies Class	11:00 am
Suspended until Sept 15 th	
Wed. Evening Study	7:00 pm

Minister Dennis Baker

Shepherds

Gordon Gower Morris Guest
Larry Miller

Deacons

Don Dillahunty Rick Pinney
Spencer Guest Troy Trammell

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ATTENDANCE

Bible Class	58
AM Worship	81
PM Worship	27

FINANCES

Weekly Budget	\$3995
Weekly Contribution	\$4872