

The Priorities of God's People

Understanding God's call to Service

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct 25th

REFLECTION: The Passion of God is reflected in the Priorities He's given His people. These can be summed up in the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20) and the Great Commandment (Mt. 22:37-39). Sin (hamartano) literally means "to miss the mark". By sinning we "offend, err, trespass" against God and others.

Would not then the Greatest Sin be to miss the Greatest Commandment?

"loving our neighbor as ourself" (Mt. 22:39) should reveal itself through practical service.

1. Last week we examined the "What" of Ministry (diakonia: service, aid, relief.)

- A. Love in Action (Jn. 13:1-17)
- B. Labor in Jesus' Name. (Mt. 25:40)
- C. A Litmus test. (1 Jn. 3:10-19)

God's Word (revealing His will and ways) is a type of Mirror (*James 1:22-27*) that reveals:

What we are as well as well as What we can (and should) become. (*2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:16,17*)

How we respond to the mirror of God's word will determine if we're:

- Blinded 22 *"deceiving their own selves"*
- Blessed: vs 25 *"whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, ... shall be blessed in his deed."* vs 25

2. The Why Of Ministry 1Jn 4:16-17 *"God is love;*

and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."

We are Christ's "ambassadors", loving/serving in His name! *2 Cor 5:18-20*

A. God's love is **Powerful**. 1 Cor 13:13 *"but the greatest of these is charity."*

"Agape" love is the most powerful motivator known to man.

1) It Motivated Christ to die for us. Jn 15:13 *"Greater love hath no man than this, That a man lay down his life for his friends."*

2) It Motivates us to live for him. Gal. 2:20; 2 Cor 5:14 *"the love of Christ constrains us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them."*

B. God's love is **Personal** Mt 25:35-40 *"I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. "Lord, when saw we thee hungry, ... or thirsty, ... a stranger... naked, ... sick, in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

C. God's Love Is **Practical**. 1 Cor 13:6 "Charity...seeketh not her own..."

Agape literally means benevolence.

God's love meets us where we are.

Jesus consistently demonstrated this! Mk 2:17 *"They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick...I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

C. God's Love Is Practical.

- 1) We needed a Savior. Jn 3:16; Ro 5:8
- 2) The Multitudes needed food. Mt 14:13-21
- 3) The Apostles needed cleansing. Jn. 13:7-12

1 Jn 3:18 *"beloved, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."*

James 2:15-17 *"If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead."*

Conclusion:

Jesus modeled Powerful, Personal, Practical and Loving, Ministry.

John 5:1-20 relates the story of a man who had been crippled for 38 years. (vs 5)

He placed his hope each day on the possibility of an angelic miracle. (Vs 4)

Jesus asked him plainly *"wilt thou be made whole?"* Vs 6

Notice his pitiful (and revealing) answer in Vs 7 *"Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me."*

Jesus healed him with a command. Vs. 8 *"Rise, take up thy bed, and walk"*

It just so happened that this event took place on the Sabbath (Vs 9) giving the pharisees an excuse to accuse the man of "law breaking". (Vs 10)

Since Jesus left without taking any credit, the man didn't really understand who he was. (Vs 13)

Jesus found him (worshiping in the Temple) and revealed himself and the real cause of his affliction. (Vs 14)

When the Jews understood that it was Jesus who healed the man, they sought to slay Jesus for violating (their) Sabbath laws. Vs 15,16

Application: Of all the sick people there that day, why did Jesus only heal that man?

17 *"But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work, 18 the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only broke the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." Then answered Jesus and said unto them, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth:"

Jesus was more concerned with (attentive to) God's Will,
Than His own! (Luke 22:42); Than the cripple, Than the Pharisees.

God could trust Jesus with His will, so He revealed it!

How can we serve with confidence?

Jn 14:21 *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."*

Do we want God's will or our own?

Can Christ Trust us with His Will?