



“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” – John 8:32

What Are We Afraid Of?

A speaker entered the congregation and began to teach the people from the word of God. He ended his discourse with a challenge. He told them that the vilest class (in their eyes) of non-believers would respond to his message more readily than they would. This enraged his audience to such a degree that they all rose up and attempted to kill him. That speaker was Jesus and the incident is recorded in Luke 4:16-29.

If a speaker comes to your church and says something that convicts you, what would you do? I'm sure you wouldn't physically leap out of your seat with murder in your eyes, we're much more civilized than that nowadays aren't we? Instead we'd probably resort to using another method of destruction – our tongues. Backbiting, complaining, attacking with venomous words can be just as effective. We certainly wouldn't have that speaker back again and if it is coming from the pastor, well, then we'll try and get rid of him too. We'll do anything but receive correction and repent – because we are terrified.

Jesus sent a pack of demons into a herd of swine, (Mark 5:1-17). The herd was destroyed and so was the economy of that particular Jewish community. Jews were forbidden to eat pigs, so why were they keeping them? These animals were frequently used for sacrifice in pagan religious ceremonies, so in addition to those Jews developing a forbidden taste for pork chops, the pigs were probably also being raised to sell for a purpose that God despised. Jesus was asked to leave. Some people can't bear to lose their swine herds no matter what form their compromise takes them.

Jesus confronted a large assembly of His followers and challenged them to “Eat My flesh and drink My blood”, (John 6:53-66). In other words, a superficial relationship with Him is not what He is looking for. To ingest Him is to desire intimacy. He wants to come inside. Well, that was too much for this particular group and almost everyone left except for twelve of them. They were His disciples.

His disciples were not afraid to be challenged. When they were convicted they did not rebel, but were willing to repent and be changed. They were willing to let go of their pet pig sins and let Him cast them into the sea. They were willing to eat His flesh, His words, and drink of His blood, His Spirit, because they knew they had nowhere else to go. They knew they had the

precious treasure of the truth, and they were willing, as the history of their lives attests, to endure anything, even torture and death to keep it.

They were His disciples and this is what God is calling us to be – disciples. But we are terrified. What are we so afraid of? Change. Jesus wants to change us into the people He wants us to be.

The religious, self-righteous, spiritually superior element inside us won't let go of its pride, so it turns it into a weapon and vehemently attacks when it is convicted.

The carnal side of our natures cradles its pigs of compromise, lust, greed, envy and a variety of forms of self-gratification and wants Jesus to leave us alone to wallow in the mire with our pet sins.

And the part of us that is following Jesus stops and vacates the premises whenever Jesus reminds us that He'd really like to have some quality time with us alone and allow Him to gain full control of our lives.

Yet He continues sifting through the multitudes of those who claim to know Him like a prospector pans for gold. And the ones who can remain like those twelve disciples are the treasure He is searching for. Because these are the ones He can use to bless and save others. These are the ones who will go where He tells them to go and will joyfully follow the leading of His spirit to fulfill His purposes and expand the kingdom of God.

Will you let Him sift you? Will you drop your pride and let Him convict you and not rebel against what He is trying to accomplish on the inside? Will you let him cast your swine herds into the sea? Will you open the door of your heart and let Him in to dine with you intimately?

Eat His words and ingest His Spirit and let Him change you into a true disciple.

What are you afraid of?



*Thy words
Were found and I did eat them;
And Thy words became for me
A joy and rejoicing of my heart...
How sweet are Thy words unto
my taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey
To my mouth...
Jeremiah 15:16, Psalm 119:103*

The Harvest Field

He that gathers in summer is a wise son: but he that sleeps in harvest is a son that causes shame. – Proverbs 10:5

Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; You pray therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest.” – Matthew 9:37,38

In Jesus’ parable of the vineyard, (Matthew 20:1-16), He gives us an illustration of a principle of salvation. Those who have been serving the Lord for a long time, and have grown spiritually, are just as saved as those who have only been walking with the Lord for a short time.

As we look at these laborers in God’s vineyard, we see another message in this parable - these believers are all working and serving. Their work and service has nothing to do with their salvation, but because they are saved they are laboring to bring more souls to the Lord and expand His kingdom, which is people. In other words, God did not save us just to go to church every week.

God desires that every believer realizes that He has called all of us to share the gospel at every opportunity; to be a light for Him through the holy witness of our daily lives. We should not only pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His harvest, we should also be praying that He will send us.

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

Then said I, “Here am I; send me.” - Isaiah 6:8

The Still Small Voice

“You can’t see Me, you can’t always hear Me, but I am always holding you.”

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms...Deuteronomy 33:27

Lost in the Woods

For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God - Ephesians 2:8

A little girl was lost in the woods in Maine. A chaplain was called in to offer comfort to her anxious, waiting parents as the helicopters flew overhead, and the search teams were organizing.

The Chaplain was informed by the parents that they were atheists. The Chaplain received this news graciously and continued to comfort them by her confidence that the child would be found unharmed, privately, praying to the Lord to make her words come true.

The search continued for hours, still no sign of the child. The dogs could not pick up any scent and they were eventually called back. The decision was made to send for another officer and his dog in order to gain a “fresh nose.”

The dog’s name was Grace.

She took off with her master into the woods. Some time passed. The Chaplain tried her best to keep her parents from thinking the worst.

Then they looked up and to their unspeakable relief, they saw their little girl hand in hand with the officer walking toward them across the parking lot with Grace triumphantly leading the way.

God speaks to us any way He can, sometimes in life’s parables like this one.

The only one who could locate the atheist’s missing child was named Grace. Their little girl was “saved by Grace.”

I hope someday they will be able to look back upon this incident in their lives and not miss the punchline.

Real Love ... God is love. - I John 4:8



A friend of mine and I were talking about what love is. I believe the definition she gave is very accurate. She said, “Love is commitment.”

Real love is not an emotion, because emotional love fades with time. Real love endures beyond the emotional and expresses itself with commitment. Love that is expressed with commitment never fails; is faithful and endures whatever it must until the end. This genuine love will not break a vow, abandon a child, or cut off a friend.

It’s easy to say the words, “I love you.” The commitment that is behind those words makes the difference between real love, and a verbal expression that dissipates in the face of adverse circumstances or the desire for something more.

The love that God expressed for humanity by permitting the sacrifice of His Son on their behalf is committed love.

For those who join their hands with His through faith in Christ, His love for them will never fail, will always be faithful and will endure forever. He will not break His promises, abandon us or cut us off. God is committed to us. God is love.