

Sermon Series: Spurred on to Holiness (and Power) by Immersing Ourselves into the Life of Christ Through the Eyes of the Apostles – A Harmony of All Four Gospels

Sermon Title: “The Four Most Horrible Words to Hear on Judgement Day”.

June 9, 2019

Today’s Scripture: See insert

Theme verse: Acts 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. (ESV)

Introduction: Imagine you are in line on Judgment Day . . .

Dale Witherington’s tough question asked on Thursday . . .

Main point: External religion, evidenced by external appearances, is a deception Satan uses to make people think they are on the right road to heaven. The only way to get to heaven is to have an internal transformation of the heart which produces love inspired obedience.

Context:

Exegesis

1. Satan (through false teachers) has deceived many into believing that lip service is all that is needed to enter heaven. *“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? ‘Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven,*
 - The danger of catechisms and confirmation classes. Perhaps pastors and churches mean well, but the ideology behind the catechisms and confirmation classes is ill-founded. If the leader implies that once the content has been memorized and the students have said the right words, that then their souls are saved, this is a Satanic ploy to keep people on the road to hell.
 - Even Sunday School classes and curriculum are guilty at convincing students that head-knowledge alone is enough to save.
 - There are many reasons why people, especially millennials are leaving the church today in vast quantities and there excuses are 1) we moved, 2) people weren’t friendly, 3) they’re judgmental, 4) they’re not accepting of alternative lifestyles, 5) not relevant etc. etc. but,
 - The real reason is simple. None of them have had a true conversion. A true conversion will alter a state of heart so that no excuse will keep a person away from worshiping with God’s people. Sound harsh? Not according to Jesus who just said “If you call me Lord, then you will do what I tell you to do.”

2. Jesus corrects that false teaching by saying that only those who obey are genuine believers. *but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven, will enter the kingdom of heaven.* Just as Paul said in Romans 10:9.
- So what exactly does Romans 10:9 imply? “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (ESV)
 - If you are going to call someone Lord, then you are making yourself a willing slave. This comes from:
 - *Exodus 21:1–6 “Now these are the rules that you shall set before them. When you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve six years, and in the seventh he shall go out free, for nothing. If he comes in single, he shall go out single; if he comes in married, then his wife shall go out with him. If his master gives him a wife and she bears him sons or daughters, the wife and her children shall be her master's, and he shall go out alone. But if the slave plainly says, ‘I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,’ then his master shall bring him to God, and he shall bring him to the door or the doorpost. And his master shall bore his ear through with an awl, and he shall be his slave forever. (ESV)*
 - This passage implies first that the decision was a free and voluntary decision.
 - This passage implies that the person found the conditions of his slavery to be more satisfying and pleasurable than his own freedom.
 - This passage implies that the decision was irrevocable. Changing his mind later was not an option.
 - It also implies that having seen and worked for the master for a period of time he knows what the master expects and what obedience looks like and he is more than willing to perform and do what is expected of him.
 - All of this pictures a genuine salvation experience where the Holy Spirit is wooing a person to surrender all to the Lord Jesus. It is no longer about us, it is about the Lord and His glory.
 - Therefore, when Jesus says that only a person who is willing to do the will of the Father is a real Christian, what is Jesus implying that will is?
 - He is implying like the Psalmist who wrote Psalm 119 that he loves the law of God, every single one of them. Starting with the 10 Commandments, then Jesus’ interpretation of them in SM including: loving instead of hating, protecting instead of lusting, staying married to the wife of your youth, keeping your word, never retaliating, loving your enemies, giving to the poor, fasting and praying with joy, and doing unto others as you would have them do unto you.
 - Can a bond-slave get lazy or run away? Yes, but then he is rounded up by the master and in our case the Holy Spirit and brought quickly back to the Lord to obey once again. Genuine Christians do not continuously live in sin. *1 John 3:6–7 No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. (ESV)* This means that a pathological liar is not a Christian. Same for pathological any

sin, such as gossip, racism, bigotry, hatred, lust.

3. Love for Jesus is the correct sign of genuine faith, not the ability to perform miracles or to teach biblical truth. *On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'*
 - External acts that look spiritual do not indicate a true heart change. Pagans and occult practitioners can perform miracles and cast out demons. Acts 19:11 the 7 Sons of Sceva, Jewish exorcists and Catholic priests today, not all who are true believers.
 - And, look how they are trying to worm their way into heaven, by boasting of their good deeds. True Christians boast only in the blood of Jesus that paid for our sins in full.
 - So what does it mean for Jesus to “know” us and for us to “know him”? The best analogy is marriage and married love. Must a man kiss his wife every night? Yes, but not that kind of must! Is a woman impressed when a man gives her a beautiful bouquet of flowers that says on the card “Dear wife, receive these flowers as my yearly obligation to do something nice to you”!
 - Biblical married love is full of emotion and passion and dread at the thought of parting for a while or forever. It is the coming together of two lives in purposes, dreams, and hopes. Everything you can imagine of the perfect earthly marriage can be transferred to a relationship with Jesus except for sex.
 - And in regards to sex, Muslims protest that heaven without sex is unattractive to them since in their definition of heaven they get 70 virgins to each martyr. Boy will they be surprised, but think about this. When Jesus says that there will be no marriage in heaven, he is not taking something great here on earth and subtracting it from heaven. Instead he is trying to say that something far greater awaits us there. Illustrate it this way. When a child asks about parental sexual love and says, well it can't be much fun if there is no eating of chocolates while kissing. That's exactly us because our earthly marital physical love is like eating chocolates to the boy. His failure to grasp is our failure to grasp something far, far better.
4. Wise people will build their eternal future on the bedrock of obeying Jesus' words. *“Everyone then who comes to me who hears these words of mine and does them I will show you what he is like. He is like a wise man who built his house on the rock, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall because it had been well built and because it had been founded on the rock.*
 - Analogies help people to “hear” spiritual abstracts that their minds miss. No one can miss this analogy. What fool would build his house within 2 feet of the Mississippi River waterfront? In Israel, there were dry beds that were nicely shaded and would make a good place for a home. That is until the rainy season arrived. Then the entire investment of what would be today several thousands of dollars would be washed down stream, with no insurance to cover the loss.

- If that makes sense to people, then how much more should it make sense to build an eternal home in heaven on the solid foundation of Christ's teachings and obedience to them?

Application

Lisa Koehntop said last week that she knows somebody who picks a church based on her feeling good after every service. She wants to leave feeling good about herself. Well, which is better, feeling the harshness of the possibility of hearing the words now, "Depart from me you workers of lawlessness" or hearing on Judgment Day, "I NEVER KNEW YOU"!

But you . . .