

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

April 2, 2017

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

Christ is our Advocate

Job 16:19-22: "Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is on high. My friends are my scoffers; my eye weeps to God. O that a man might plead with God as a man with his neighbor! For when a few years are past, I shall go the way of no return."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 111:1-3

+We Adore Him

Hymn #310, "Rejoice, The Lord Is King"

We Confess Our Sin

Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: speaking impure words, bearing false witness, uttering lies, speaking words that cut and hurt others, participating in gossip, and slandering others.

Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean eyes, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean eyes: by envying or grieving at the good of our neighbor, by looking with lust in our heart at others, by imagining the supposed pleasantries of sin, by entertaining myself with that which is contrary to Your law, by valuing the things of this world more highly, than the treasures of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean hands, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean hands: by working iniquity with our hands, by becoming discouraged in our work and not trusting You for the fruit of our labors, by hitting, harming, or threatening others with our hands.

Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean feet, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean

feet, for You know that frequently I walk in the way of the wicked, that I stand in the path of sinners, and that I sit in the seat of scoffers.

By Your grace touch our lips, our eyes, our hands, our feet, and our mind with a live coal, and assure me that I am cleansed in Jesus Christ. Revive our heart and make me ready for service. In the glorious name of Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #305, "Arise, My Soul, Arise"

Based on Psalm 24

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Heb. 4:15-16

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #95, "Though Troubles Assail Us"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Ps. 119:25-32

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #600, "He Leadeth Me"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

The Forging of a Servant of God, Pt. 5b

Ezekiel 1-4

Study Notes for April 2, 2017

- I. **Introduction:** The Gospel of John records an interesting concern on the part of Christ during His passion (cf. Jn. 13:19; 14:29; 16:1-2, 4)...
- II. **The Forging of a Servant of God, Ezk. 1-4.**
- A. His Audience, Ezk. 1:4-28; 2:6; 3:22-23.
 - B. His Strength, Ezk. 2:1-2, 8-10; 3:10-11, 22-24.
 - C. His Commission, Ezk. 2:3-4, 7; 3:16-21.
 - D. His Ministerial Telos, Ezk. 2:5.
- E. **His Expectation for Ministry, Ezk. 3:4-7, 24-27.**
- 1. Ministry will Bring Difficulty Where you Least Expect It, vv. 4-7.
 - 2. At times, Ministry will Result in Active Persecution, v. 25.
 - 3. Ministry will Involve a Struggle when it Comes to our own Inability, v. 26.
 - 4. **Ministry is Accompanied by the Presence of the Holy Spirit, v. 24.**

Ezekiel was not alone in his ministry... the Spirit of God accompanied him.

And so it is with us! When you were redeemed, God the Holy Spirit took up residence in your life such that in and through all things, you are never alone (cf. Eph. 1:13-14a; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 12:7)!...

*Where We Live

- 1. This means that while we endeavor to fulfill the call God has placed on our lives, the Spirit of God is ever and always present... in everything we do... strengthening, upholding, convicting, supporting, and much, much more (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6-7)!
- 2. This means that everywhere we go and in everything we do, we are the hands, feet, eyes, and ears of the Spirit of God- which is why Paul exhorted us in Rom. 12:1...
- 3. Illustration: A Body Offered to the Lord

Dr. Walter Wilson later wrote in his journal the prayer he uttered in response to the sermon that evening, "My Lord, I have mistreated You all my Christian life. I have treated You like a servant... I shall do so no more. Just now I give You this body of mine; from my head to my feet. I give You my hands, my limbs, my eyes and lips, my brain; all that I am within and without, I hand over to You for You to live in it the life that You please. You may send this body to Africa, or lay it on a bed with cancer... It is Your body from this moment on." (*The One Year Christian History*, Rusten, E. Michael, pp. 28-29)

5. **Ministry- if Done in Reliance Upon God- Will be an "Easy" and "Light" Load, 27a.**

God did not require of Ezekiel that which was beyond him! His was not the calling to...

...rather, as a prophet he simply was called to open his mouth and faithfully proclaim that which God gave him. That's it!!!

Illustration: Christ, Jn. 17:4...

*Where We Live

1. When is God most honored in our ministry?...
2. A Contrast between the Fruit of the False Prophet and the True Prophet...
3. We cannot live in a world where our people's health, growth, well-being, and the like are our responsibility. How only can we live?

6. Through our Efforts, God's Kingdom Will Advance, v. 27b.

This is charged language which Christ referenced in His ministry! When our Lord began to teach the masses with parables, Jesus gave this explanation as to why He spoke in parables (cf. Mt. 13:10-13; Lk. 8:10)...

***Point:** There is no neutrality when it comes to the Kingdom of God. You are either for it or against it! As such, when Christ came to this earth, He brought a sword. Accordingly the net result of Christ's ministry- as well as Ezekiel's ministry- was either to harden the heart of man or to soften it! Either represents the fruit of ministry (cf. Mt. 10:34-36)!

Such was the promise that God gave to Ezekiel when it came to his calling. His responsibility was to preach the word... God's responsibility was to bring forth fruit...

***Point:** From this we understand a sixth and final Expectation when it comes to Ministry... through the labors of God's people, the Lord's Kingdom will Always Advance; God will bring about His fruit!

*Where We Live

1. The fruit of ministry comes in two different forms... what are they?

...yet both results are according to God's will... both ends serve God's Kingdom... both glorify God (cf. Mt. 11:25b-26)!!!

2. Accordingly, Kingdom Fruit is Guaranteed (cf. Is. 55:6-7)...
3. Does this mean that we need not care about offering the Lord our best? Absolutely not! While God is building His church, nevertheless the servants He uses most are those that are faithful (cf. 2 Tim. 2:21)!

Illustration: Prayer