

Lambs in the Midst of Wolves – Part 3
Identifying with Jesus in a Hostile World

Luke 10:1-24; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 2-19-17

‘Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.’ – Luke 10:3

Happiness in God is largely a matter of pursuing the happiness of others’ in God. (Romans 15:13; Ephesians 5:6; 1 John 3:16)

We need to connect happiness and holiness and humility and love. Luke 10:1-24 is an important passage for us to embrace as we think about life in this world. And one of the most challenging statements in this passage is in verse 3, where the Lord Jesus tells His disciples: ‘Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.’ Whether or not we embrace this vision for life depends on how we hear it. That’s why I’ve spent the last two Sundays and will conclude this Sunday laying a foundation of truth that undergirds such a statement: (1) God desires us to pursue our happiness. (2) If we won’t be holy, we can’t be happy. (3) If we won’t be humble, we can’t be holy. (4) Our happiness in God is largely a matter of pursuing the happiness of others’ in God. God wants us to pursue our happiness. ... So live as a lamb among wolves. It is for your happiness in God and for their happiness in God. If you won’t be holy, you can’t be happy. ... So live as a lamb among wolves. It is for your holiness and the holiness of others that you live this way. If you won’t be humble, you can’t be holy. It’s important to see why.

Happiness requires holiness requires humility. (Psalm 16:11; Isaiah 6:3; James 1:21)

We need to connect happiness and holiness. We naturally think that we can be happy without being holy. Because we were created by God for God, we will never be fully and forever happy apart from God. God is perfectly happy and He created us to find our happiness in Him. But God is also perfectly holy. So all those who would be happy in God must also be holy as God is holy. But we aren’t holy. We have sinned and still sin against God. Therefore, there is no way we can be holy in order to be happy in God unless we depend on the holiness of Someone else. That is where Jesus comes in and where the Spirit comes in. And thus, that is where humility comes in. We must humble ourselves and trust in Jesus and depend on the Spirit in order to be holy so that we can be happy in God. Happiness requires holiness requires humility.

Pride is the worship of ‘I’. (Isaiah 2:17; Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 1 John 2:16; Isaiah 14:12-14)

Pride is the opposite of humility. Pride is a form of idolatry: the worship of something or someone other than God. Pride is the worship of ourselves. In pride, we look to ourselves for the goodness or righteousness we need to be right with God and enjoy the happiness we long for. In pride, we depend on our own wisdom and strength to deal with life and handle what comes our way. In pride, we set our hope on created things and other people for the help we need and the happiness our hearts long for. In pride, we live life the way we choose and do what is right in our eyes. Pride is the worship of ‘I.’

Humility is the worship of ‘Thou.’ (Micah 6:8; Isaiah 66:1-2; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)

We need to connect holiness and humility. Humility is a rare thing. Humility is the opposite of pride. Humility is the worship of God – not ‘I’ but ‘Thou’. Humility is the worship of Someone outside of me and those like me. Humility is the worship of the Creator instead of the creation. To be humble is to say what God’s Word says about us, good or bad. To be humble is to do what God’s Word says to do, whether we understand why or not.

Humility is the life response to the gospel. (Luke 18:14; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 1:9)

We need to connect holiness and Jesus. Jesus came to be perfectly holy so we could enjoy perfect happiness. We are to trust Jesus to be reconciled to a holy, happy God. Our desire for happiness reveals our need for holiness reveals the essential of humility. Why? Happiness is found only in a holy God. So we must be holy as God is holy in order to happy in God. But we are holy and we can’t be holy in ourselves. Our only hope is to look outside of ourselves for the holiness we need to enjoy the happiness we desire, but this requires humility. If we aren’t humble, we won’t rely on the holiness of Jesus to be reconciled to God. If we aren’t humble, we won’t rely on the enabling of the Spirit to love. If we aren’t humble, we won’t serve others.

Have you heard the good news? Jesus is an able and willing Savior for you and me!

*The wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
– Romans 6:23*

Why is the world the way it is? Rebellion against Love!

1. God is good and He created us to trust and obey Him as our Help and Happiness.
2. We have rebelled and sinned and deserve God’s just punishment.

What has God done about it? Sent His Own Son!

3. Jesus lived the life we could never live.
4. Jesus died the death we deserve to die.
5. Jesus rose from the dead as the only Savior and Lord.

What must we do? Repent and Believe!

6. Turn to God for mercy, confessing your sin.
7. Trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.

How then are we to live? Please God!

8. Rest in Jesus for pardon (forgiveness of sins) and perfection (gift of righteousness).
9. Hope in God for help (in the trials of this life) and happiness (mixed with sorrow in this life but perfect, full and forever in the life to come).
10. Pursue Love by trusting and obeying God’s Word in every situation and relationship.