

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

April 5, 2020

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

God is Omnipotent

Hebrews 11:17-19: "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac; and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; *it was he* to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.' He considered that God is able to raise *men* even from the dead; from which he also received him back as a type."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Gen. 17:1-3a

+We Adore Him

Hymn #53, "Praise To The Lord"

Based on Psalm 103

We Confess Our Sin

Holy Lord! We are bound in sin, enslaved by the presence of this vile monster. To whom can we look, to whom can we go, but unto You, O Friend of sinners. Lord, at your sweet call, we come for pardon, peace, and holiness. Lord! We are sorely grieved, that we love You so little; that our affections move so slowly towards You. Stir up our languid desires. In flame our cold affections. Set our whole soul on fire with holy love.

How painful, that we should be so little affected by the agony and bloody sweat, the cross and passion, of our suffering Redeemer. Why are not our souls all on fire when we think of your love? Why are we not melted into tears, when we think of our dying Savior? Are we harder than the rock in Horeb? Are we colder than the northern ice? Lord! Smite our rocky hearts with the rod of your lovingkindness; dissolve our frozen affections, by the melting beams of Your grace.

O blessed Jesus! We praise You for such infinite love, such abounding grace to the chief of sinners! Amen!

Hymn #119, "I Sing Th' Almighty Pow'r"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication

Gen. 17:9

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #323, "Ten Thousand Times Ten Thousand"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship

Jer. 31:31-32

We Read His Word

Sermon

Hymn #263, "Lift High The Cross"

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.

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We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

The Path to Calvary
Matthew 16:21-23
Study Notes for April 5, 2020

I. Introduction

II. The Path to Calvary, Mt. 16:21-23.

A. A Path of Suffering, v. 21.

“From that time”- this a transition phrase used by Matthew to indicate a significant change in Jesus’ ministry (cf. Mt. 4:17)....

“Jesus Christ began to show His disciples...”- the way the text reads, it makes it sound that until this moment, Christ had not mentioned anything about the suffering and death that awaited Him. Yet that is not the case. Christ frequently referenced this fact to the 12 (cf. Mt. 12:40; Jn. 2:19; 12:7; 17:9, 12, 22-23). Yet on account of the 12’s immature thinking, the prior revelations about Christ’s sufferings were in a veiled manner. Now in this text He is much more direct, open, and explicit!

“He must go”- this speaks of a necessity out of which Christ could not be taken. In other words, Christ’s death was not out of a human devotion to an ideal, but a Divine imperative and absolute necessity (cf. Acts 2:23a)...

...speaking of this act of redemption, Christ described it as consisting of Four Stages...

1. Stage #1: He must go to Jerusalem.
2. Stage #2: And suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes.
3. Stage #3: And be killed.
4. State #4: And be raised up on the third day.

***Point:** We behold the first element to the Path to Calvary: It is a Path of Suffering!

B. A Path of Contempt, v. 22.

“And Peter took Him aside”- the idea here is that of taking to oneself or receiving to oneself. Here it is in the middle voice suggesting that Peter did this for his own purpose and cause!

“And began to rebuke Him”- Peter only got so far in His rebuke of Christ before the Lord cut him off in v. 23. Yet from the rebuke Peter’s pride is quite prominent...

“God forbid it, Lord”-

“This shall never happen to You”

Why such a strong reaction? If you could go back to Christ’s day and ask almost any Jew, you would find that Calvary- being hung on a cross- was a symbol of ridicule and shame (cf. 1 Cor. 1:23; Deut. 21:22-23)!...

***Point:** From this we behold a second element to the Path to Calvary: Its suffering will be viewed as folly!

***Where We Live**

1. There is an element of shock here on account of the one evidencing contempt. Who is it?

What do we learn from this?

2. How do we as Christians show contempt for the cross of Christ? In two ways...
 - a. By looking _____ upon _____ (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9; Heb. 12:3-4)!
 - b. By looking upon _____ as if it were _____!

C. A Path of Restoration, v. 23.

“But He turned and said to Peter”- the idea behind this expression is that Jesus turned and looked directly at Peter. With that our Lord issued a rebuke which contained three elements...

1. He identified Peter’s actions as in accord with Satan.
2. He illustrated that Peter’s actions were destructive/harmful.
3. He highlighted the cause for Peter’s sinful behavior.

Through this three-pronged rebuke, Peter was confronted with his own sinfulness. Now on the surface we might pity this apostle because he was on the receiving end of the Lord’s rebuke. No one likes to be corrected. Yet to do this is to miss the bigger picture (cf. Heb. 12:5-6, 8)...

***Point:** From all of this we conclude that the purpose behind the Lord’s rebuke of Peter here was not his condemnation, but his restoration!

***Where We Live**

1. When you think of the Spiritual Giants in Scripture, what is the one prominent theme that unites them?

<<They are Sinners!!!>>

2. What does this mean by way of implication?

<<There is no sin committed by a Christian that is unforgivable!>>

3. What ought we to do in response? (cf. 1 Jn. 1:9)