

SERIES: SAINT AND SINNER- 3/3/24 (#4)

PASTOR ROB

Making
Commitments:
Implications!

- JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING.....the world around us.....how we treat others.....and the way we see ourselves.
- In this life, we all make commitmentsbut do we always realize the ramifications (eg. when we sign things, make commitments to others, or even say "I Do")? The implications, small and large, may not have been predictable or imagined....but are real.

What Does
Commitment:
"Jesus As
Lord" Imply?

- Re: Peter, he had made a confession that Jesus is the Christ. Today, Believers also make this same confession. Now, Peter, in saying that Jesus is his SAVIOR, he (like us) is also saying, intrinsically, that He is his LORD. Now, there are so many implications to Jesus being 'the LORD OF YOUR LIFE'.
- What are some principles of "Lordship"? Parenthetically, when we see how Jesus worked in Peter's life, we can begin to appreciate how He works in ours. We'll look at 3 of Peter's stories, all having an element of counter-intuitiveness, that became seared into his heart. They reflect "Lordship" in a less-than-obvious way. Each of these memorable stories about Peter provides us clarity and inspires challenges for our own lives.
- Question....what might it look like, this week, if you literally followed Jesus as your Lord? If you did, 'Jesus would change everything'eg...the way we see the world, suffering, our perceptive of others and ourselves.

Peter Confesses
"Lordship"
But Is
Rebuked!

- Story #1.....happening just after Peter offers his confession about Jesus. Mark 8: 31-33.....in what feels like a quick 'turnabout'.

(31) And he began to teach that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. (32) And He said this plainly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. (33) But turning and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said "get behind me, Satan. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God but on the things of man."

He (And we)
Need To
Recognize
Implications
of
"Lordship"

- So, Jesus, after Peter's confession, had gone on to explain that He was going to suffer and die and that He would rise again. Peter found it so unexpected and unthinkable that he felt compelled to rebuke Jesus. But...while he had just recognized, moments ago, Jesus as his Lord, he failed to see the essence of what that meant (ie. Jesus as God with His holy will and intent).
- Jesus' rebuke (... "get behind me, Satan") was so incredibly strong and opposite Peter's naive protective instinct. The notion of intentional suffering/dying, as the Christ... and rising again, was far from his mind when he spoke to Jesus. Certainly, Jesus' countering rebuke would, forever, be seared in Peter's mind.
- Suffering, then, can be so counter-intuitive. But one of the implications of accepting Christ as your Lord is....you begin to see the world differently.
- Amongst the natural/beneficial aspects of Christianity (eg... His love for us; His source of inner power and strength, etc)there's also the inherent logic to it all.

Acceptance
of
Suffering

Trusting
Him!

Teaching
humility
and
True Love

Sharing with
Jesus =
accepting
Him as
SAVIOR AND
Lord

The Gospel helps us make sense of the things around us and why the experience of suffering..for each of us....is inevitable. Peter , through Jesus' rebuke, had to start to come to terms with it just like us.

- Peter's notion (and our natural inclination) ,further, that a good God doesn't allow suffering is incredibly audacious. Unintentionally but Peter was actually attempting to rebuke God (ie. Jesus)! Thus the reaction. And don't we similarly and effectively rebuke God when we don't accept the challenges and sufferings in our own life? In doing so we are looking at the world through the eyes of man.
- Conversely and accepting Jesus 'as your Lord', you can begin to appreciate His infallible perspective/intent. God sees suffering on a whole different, unfathomable plane.....and it is, indeed, an inevitable part of His perfect plan....not something to be rebuked!
- So suffering is a real and common part of the 'human experience' ...and a great challenge...but we need to surrender it to God! Why....because JESUS IS OUR LORD....WE CAN TRUST HIM....EVEN IN DARKEST TIMES! HAVE CONFIDENCE THAT HE CARES!
- You will suffer....all of us will....but SURRENDER IT TO JESUS!!!! And remember that Jesus loves you and understands...He suffered immensely.....for us....not for anything he did!!!! Through this lens and by His Grace, we change how we respond to suffering.
- He also changes us in how we view and interact with others. In doing so, we all become an illustration of the Gospel...for all the world to see.
- In this regard, see story #2.....another memorable moment in which Jesus washes the disciple's feet. See John 13:5-8

(4) (Jesus)...rose from supper. He laid aside His outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist. (5) Then He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with a towel that was wrapped around Him. (6) He came to Simon Peter, who said to Him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?" (7) Jesus answered him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand." (8) Peter said to Him, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you will have no share with me."

- Memorable certainly....AND counterintuitive again.....why is the Lord exercising the duty of a slave by washing Peter's - -and the others- -feet?! In the face of Peter's 'second-hand embarrassment', Jesus is showing them what true power is all about.
- Taking this a step further, the whole Gospel is counter-intuitive. To the extent that one has NOT (yet) placed his/her faith in Jesus, the whole teaching contained therein counters the self-centered culture we live in and which seems to engulf the world more and more. At best, the culture says...be good and you will go to heaven.....yet Believers, unconventionally, understand we are saved by God's grace through faith....not good works. Having a 'share' with Jesus (V 8) means having Jesus 'wash' you... accepting Him as your Savior and your Lord. AND, accepting Jesus' example of love and servitude by washing each others' feet.

Imitating
Christ In
Servant
Leadership

John 13: 14-15 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. (15) For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. "

- So, it also means accepting Jesus' example of love and servitude by washing each others' feet. In doing so, imitating Him and representing Him (and His 'good news') to every one around us.
 - What does it look like? Pastor Rob invites Tex Camden up to give his testimony about his progressively successful career and his spiritual transition from a self centered/prideful/ self-congratulatory perspective regarding his accomplishments...to a humbled, faithful leader focused on the success of his team ('servant leadership').....almost an oxymoron to many managers). He learned that life was NOT all about him but about Him (Jesus!) who was the *perfect* example of true leadership. He further relayed that when you acknowledge and submit to the Lord (above yourself), it makes it much easier to shed that self-centeredness and make it about the other people in your life".
 - Pastor Rob sums up this testimony...Tex had to understand he had a 'LORD IN HIS LIFE'...he came to know his identity which allowed him to put others before himself!
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Jesus Is
God, Our
Lord!

John 13: 3-4 Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that he had come from the Father and was going back to God, (4) rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around His waist.

- So Jesus knew his identity, His authority and His relationship with the Father. Again, with this perspective and knowledge, it changes everything....the way we see ourselves....and others. Jesus is our foundation.....we are following the Creator of existence!!!!
 - Story #3 ; Mark 9:2 -8....where Jesus bring him up on the Mount where Jesus is transfigured. What a memorable, and again, counter-intuitive moment for Peter.....seeing Elijah (Prophet), Moses (the Law) and Jesus (God) in transfigured form....including the visualization that there IS life after death. His exclamation..."lets make some tents" is a human response...but he is instinctively (intentionally or not) or perhaps out of embarrassment, putting the two others on the same level as Jesus.
 - But....he hears an audible God, the Father making perfectly clear that Jesus was His "Beloved Son".
 - So what's our "Moses and Elijah"?..... who or what do we wrongly put on the same pedestal as Jesus?
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Nothing Else
Compares!

- **THE CHALLENGE OF LORDSHIP IS: GOD WANTS ALL OF YOU!**
Nothing competes with Jesus!

JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING!