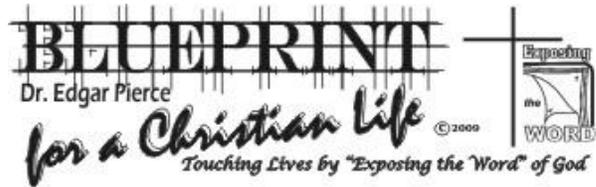


An "Exposing the Word" Sermon Series



11- Living in the House....Luke 19:12-13

Accepting Christ as Savior and making a commitment to serve Him at times seems like the easy thing when compared to living it out day to day. The new wears off and the work of being like Christ begins. Our series on the Christian life today moves us in our analogy down the road to days, weeks, months and years after we have occupied our home.

Jesus told a parable recorded in which He stressed the working out of the faith; the parable of the ten pounds.

The parable, spoken in an environment of some hearing that the Kingdom of God was going to appear immediately, teaches us to keep living in our house until He comes.

Luk 19:12-13 *He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.*

A lot of the recent translations render occupy with "Do or engage in business until I come."

So how do we get on with the business of living in our house day to day and year by year? Most of what we are going to look at is not new or earth shaking but is simply a reminder of things.

I- By Loving Like Christ:

When I think of Christ love I always think of forgiveness. The Bible tells us while we were yet sinners and enemies of God Christ died for us. For us to love like Christ we must learn to practice forgiveness and not be so judgmental of others who are caught in some act both within the household of faith and without.

I think of the story of the woman taken in adultery found in **Joh 8:3-4** *And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.*

Now according to the law of the day they should have brought the man caught in adultery as well but then it was the men who were bringing the woman so they left him out. The bible tells us that God is no respecter of persons but we find ourselves being if we are not careful.

How would we have reacted as an individual? As a church? Notice how Christ reacted. He stooped and wrote in the dirt for a moment and then told the ones without sin to cast a stone at her. Then he again wrote in the dirt. They were convicted by their own guilt of sin and disappeared from the oldest to the youngest. I love the next portion...

John 8:10-11 *When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? 11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

Was she guilty, sure; so was the crowd. Are those we are called to love guilty, sure but so are we. As we live in our house that God is building let us love like Christ and get rid of all our stones.

II- By Having the Mind of Christ:

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Next notice **Php 2:5** *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*

I have thought of this often. While there are million things potentially involved in having the mind of Christ to me it melts down to a couple of thoughts.

- 1- Surrender of Own Will to Fathers;
- 2- Laying Self Aside for Benefit of Others.

Christ prayed in the garden the night before He was crucified, **...Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done. Luke 22:42** He willingly surrendered His will to the Father.

Also, I think it involves laying aside ourselves for the benefit of others. Christ was born for the purpose of dying for our sins. think about this in conjunction to this. Before He left heaven, ask yourself why He would come to be a man of flesh knowing that it was going to be a death sentence. It was because we were helpless and doomed if he had not. The plan of God was for Him to come, not for His benefit but for ours.

One animal sacrifice per man, Genesis 3
One sacrifice per family, Exodus 12:3-14
One sacrifice per nation, Tabernacle in wilderness, Day of atonement
One sacrifice per world, John 1:29, Heb 10:1-14
Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine, H. Wayne House, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publ. House, 1992), p. 108

So how does this flesh out in us living in our house? Perhaps the answer is another question. Have we surrendered our will to the Fathers? I do not know if you caught one thing that jumped out to me that Randy Pool said, the answer needs to be yes to God before we even know the question.

Then the next question is, are we laying aside our self for others? We will explore this a bit more in a moment.

III- By Walking in the Word:

Notice **Jas 1:22** *But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*

As we live in our house as days go by we need to constantly walk in the Word of God. Make our decisions in a way that do not contradict the Word.

Let me give us a little Bible Study assignment. I did not give the scripture in the follow on purpose only the reference. This little study will help us to see the importance of the Word.

Born again by the Word 1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18

Cleansed by the Word Eph. 5:26; Psalm 119:9

Saved by the Word 1 Tim. 4:16; James 1:21

Growing by the Word 1 Peter 2:2; Jer. 16:17

Sanctified by the Word John 17:17; 1 Tim. 4:6

Enlightened by the Word Psalm 19:8; 119:105

Kept by the Word Psalm 17:4; Rev. 3:10

(from 750 Bible and Gospel Studies by George W. Noble from 1909.)

Living in the house means we must constantly be aware of the Word of God in our live.

IV- By Present a Living Sacrifice

What does God expect of you? What does God expect of me? I think this is a very personal question. I cannot answer it for you...often I cannot for me. Notice what the Word says in **Rom 12:1** *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,*

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acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Presenting our bodies as living sacrifices involve making a lot of little decisions more than a big one. What is the motive? Christ sacrifice!

A wealthy English family once invited friends to spend some time at their beautiful estate. The happy gathering was almost plunged into a terrible tragedy on the first day. When the children went swimming, one of them got into deep water and was drowning. Fortunately, the gardener heard the others screaming and plunged into the pool to rescue the helpless victim. That youngster was Winston Churchill. His parents, deeply grateful to the gardener, asked what they could do to reward him. He hesitated, then said, 'I wish my son could go to college someday and become a doctor.' 'We'll pay his way,' replied Churchill's parents.

Years later when Sir Winston was prime minister of England, he was stricken with pneumonia. Greatly concerned, the king summoned the best physician who could be found to the bedside of the ailing leader. That doctor was Sir Alexander Fleming, the developer of penicillin. He was also **the son of that gardener who had saved Winston from drowning as a boy!** Later Churchill said, 'Rarely has one man owed his life **twice** to the same person.'

What was rare in the case of that great English statesman is in a much deeper sense a wonderful reality for every believer in Christ. The Heavenly Father has given us the gift of physical life, and

then through His Son, the Great Physician, He has imparted to us eternal life.

May the awareness that we are doubly indebted to God as our Creator and Redeemer motivate us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto Him. - D.J.D.

Our Daily Bread, April 29

V- By Dying Daily and Living Eternally:

Perspective is important. The way we see things often determines how we will react. Do we see with temporary eyes or eternal eyes. May I suggest in closing that we need to embrace the fact that we are going to die and live with eternity in mind.

Paul said in **1 Cor 15:31** "**I die daily.**" We also need to keep in mind these verses. **1 Corinthians 15:19-22** **If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. 20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.**

When John Owen, the great Puritan, lay on his deathbed his secretary wrote (in his name) to a friend, 'I am still in the land of the living.'

'Stop,' said Owen. 'Change that and say, I am yet in the land of the dying, but I hope soon to be in the land of the living.'

John M. Drescher