

RESTORATION THROUGH SINCERITY

EZEKIEL 33:30-33

INTRODUCTION:

1. The scribes and Pharisees were called hypocrites because they “say and do not do.” (Matt. 23.3)
2. In Ezekiel 33,34, we have the very heart of God on display.
 - a) God did not want to see the destruction of His people, but begged and pleaded for them to repent. (Ezek. 33.11)
 - b) Today, God pleads with us to turn from our sins and be restored to Him. (2 Pet. 3.9; 2 Cor. 5.20)
3. If I want to be restored to God, I need to turn to Him with a heart of sincerity.

I. THE HYPOCRISY OF ISRAEL

- A. Israel turned to God expressing their love for His word.
 1. **EZEKIEL 33.30:** “Please come and hear what the word is that comes from the LORD.”
 2. **EZEKIEL 33.31:** “they sit before you as My people, and they hear your words”
- B. Israel turned to God, but not in sincerity.
 1. **EZEKIEL 33.31:** “but they do not do them”
 2. **EZEKIEL 33.31:** “with their mouth they show much love, but their hearts pursue their own gain.” (cf. Isa. 28.13)
 3. **EZEKIEL 33.32:** “for they hear your words, but they do not do them. God calls this hypocrisy. (Jer. 42.21,22)

II. RESTORATION REQUIRES A HEART OF SINCERITY

- A. Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by emphasizing sincere obedience. (Matt. 7.21-23)
 1. **MATTHEW 7.21-23:** Reference is made to those who give lip service, but do not obey the word.
 2. Contextually, we are reading about the scribes and Pharisees. (Matt. 5.20; 15.8,9)
- B. Jesus has something to say to those who hear and obey.
 1. **MATTHEW 7.24:** “whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them.” (v. 25)
 2. **MATTHEW 7.26:** “whoever hears these sayings of mind and does not do them.” (v. 27)
 3. Consequences of not obeying. (Ezek. 31.33; Matt. 7.27)

CONCLUSION: To repent, you must obey sincerely.

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

August 15, 2021

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

“ARISE AND BE BAPTIZED”

One of the greatest examples of baptism comes from a man known as Paul. His conversion is recorded three times in the Bible (Acts 9,22,26). Let’s take a brief look at the account in Acts 22.

ACTS 22.1-5: Paul recounts how he persecuted the church in every city. He then received authorization to go to Damascus and bring Christians into custody (cf. Acts 26.9-12).

ACTS 22.6-10: As Paul was on the road to Damascus, Jesus appeared to him. Paul asked, “What shall I do, Lord?” (v. 10; cf. Acts 9.3-6). Jesus said to go to Damascus where he would be told what to do (Acts 22.10).

ACTS 22.11-15: He goes to Damascus and is told that he will be “the voice of His mouth” (v. 14). Paul had been chosen to preach the gospel to Jews and Gentiles (Acts 9.15). Before he could do that, he still had to do something, but he had not yet been told what he was to do.

ACTS 22.16: “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” Jesus told him to go to Damascus where he would be told what he must do. In Damascus, Ananias tells him what he must do: “arise and be baptized”. He then tell him why he must do it: “and wash away your sins” Baptism is immersion for the purpose of washing away sins. CLP

HAVING A HEART LIKE JESUS

MARK 5:36

INTRODUCTION:

1. The Bible concept of the heart is the spiritual part of man.
 - a) The heart refers to our intellect. (Matt. 9.4)
 - b) The heart refers to our emotions. (1 Pet. 1.22)
 - c) The heart refers to our will. (Rom. 6.17)
2. Mark 5.21ff gives us insight into the heart of Jesus, a heart we are to imitate in the way we think, feel, and act. (1 Cor. 11.1)

I. THE HEART OF JESUS

- A. Jesus had a heart that was impartial.
 1. The people that Jesus helped were different in their gender. (Mark 5.21,22,25; Gal. 3.28)
 2. The people that Jesus helped were different in their social status. (Mark 5.22; Acts 13.15)
 3. To whom did Jesus give His attention? (Mark 5.21,24)
- B. Jesus had a heart that was helpful.
 1. Jesus made time and gave His attention to Jairus to help his daughter. (Mark 5.22-24)
 2. Jesus made time and gave His attention to the woman with a flow of blood. (Mark 5.25-27,34)
- C. Jesus had a heart of humility.
 1. **MARK 5.43:** *“But He commanded them strictly that no one should know it”*
 2. Why did Jesus want this kept secret? (Matt. 12.16-20)

II. DO YOU HAVE THE HEART OF JESUS?

- A. There is to be no difference in the way we see people.
 1. **JAMES 2.1:** *“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality.”*
 2. **JAMES 2.8:** Impartiality is equated with love. (Phil. 2.2)
 3. **JAMES 2.9:** Partiality is equated with sin.
- B. There is to be no indifference in the way we see people.
 1. Jesus was interested in helping both Jairus and the woman in their needs. (Mark 5.33-36)
 2. **EPHESIANS 4.28:** We work so that we can *“have something to give him who has need.”*

CONCLUSION: Do you have the heart of Jesus?

ENDURING TEMPTATION

After giving us a number of examples of individuals who gave into temptation, we are told that *“no temptation has overtaken you except that which is common to man”* (1 Cor. 10.13). There is nothing you have faced that has not been faced before.

He then goes on to say that *“God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”* Every temptation that the devil places in our path is a temptation we have the ability to endure. But how can we endure temptation? We can find the answer in James 1.12.

In James 1.12, we are told, *“Blessed is the man who endures temptation”* Literally, the one who is happy is the one who remains faithful when he is tempted. The passage then offers us three different ways that we can endure temptation.

First, we can endure temptation by seeking God’s approval. James 1.12 says, *“for when he has been approved”* The one who endures temptation is happy because He has received the approval of God. In 2 Timothy 2.15, the approval of God is connected with our *“rightly dividing the word of truth.”* If I seek to understand the Bible in context and use it to guide my life, I will have God’s approval. Seeking God’s approval will encourage me to live by the scriptures rather than by my own desires (Ps. 119.11)

Second, we can endure temptation by seeking the crown of life. James 1.12 goes on to say, *“he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised”* Paul spent his life seeking the crown of life. He wrote, *“I press on toward the goal of the upward prize of God in Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 3.14). At the end of his life, he was confident that he will receive it (2 Tim. 4.8). Seeking the crown of life will encourage me to say no to the things I desire and yes to the things God desires.

Third, we can endure temptation by loving God. James 1.12 concludes by telling us that the crown of life is reserved for *“those who love Him.”* The greatest commandment is to love God (Matt. 22.37). Jesus tells us that, *“if you love Me, keep My commandments”* (John 14.15). When I give into temptation and sin, it hurts God. When I love God, I am encouraged to resist temptation because I do not want to hurt Him.

Resisting temptation can seem hard if not impossible. But God always gives us a way of escape. We just need to see it. CLP