

Discerning the Heart

Once, when Jesus was passing through Samaria, he stopped at the well of Jacob. While his disciples were away to purchase food, a Samaritan woman came to draw water and Jesus entered into conversation with her. In this conversation there is a picture of the hardness of man's heart and a deep lesson concerning Jesus' dealings with men.

As the woman drew water from the well, Jesus asked for a drink. This startled the woman; she had not expected that a Jew would speak with her, because the Jews would have nothing to do with the Samaritans. Then, as she gave him water, Jesus startled her again. He said that he could give her water so that she would never thirst again. How good that would be, she thought, for then she would no longer have the wearisome journey to the well. So she said, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

Christ's answer was abrupt and seemingly out of place. "Go call your husband and come here." But this apparently irrelevant statement was very much to the point. The woman's mind rested only on the hope of getting relief from the tasks of her daily life. She was insensible to the deeper needs of her soul. Jesus had asked her to bring her husband; but the truth was that she had no husband. Rather, as Jesus pointed out, she had had five husbands, and the man with whom she was now living was not her husband. At this point Jesus had probed into the innermost chambers of her heart and had uncovered there the disease of her sinful life. The woman was preoccupied with her everyday tasks; Christ had to uncover her inward life and show it for what it truly was.

Before he heals, Christ must first open the wound and reveal the corrupt flesh of our sinful lives. In our pride we rebel against such a revelation. Our thoughts would rather be preoccupied with the daily round of life. But Christ discerns the heart with its inner corruption. He reveals the great need of every man; for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. If we rebel, we leave this festering evil in our hearts and we wane spiritually because of its poisons. But Christ, through faith in him, can wash the soul clean, filling the life with a flowing fountain that will never cease.

*The heart is deceitful
above all things, and
desperately sick; who can
understand it? Heal me,
O LORD, and I shall be
healed; save me, and I
shall be saved, for you
are my praise.*

Philippians 3:13, 14

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 172

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 101

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Exodus 20:1-17

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 29

“The Lord Has Heard and Answered Prayer”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 690

“I Know That My Redeemer Lives”

Sermon Text

Luke 19:1-9

Sermon

SEEKING AND SAVING

THE LORD'S TABLE

*Hymn of Preparation # 421

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

Celebrating the Supper

*Hymn of Response # 693

“Blessed Assurance”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 10:00am. Sunday School.

Today. We remember the Lord's death in the Communion service during morning worship. Our Communion service is open to those who have been, or are now, communicant members of an evangelical church.

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.