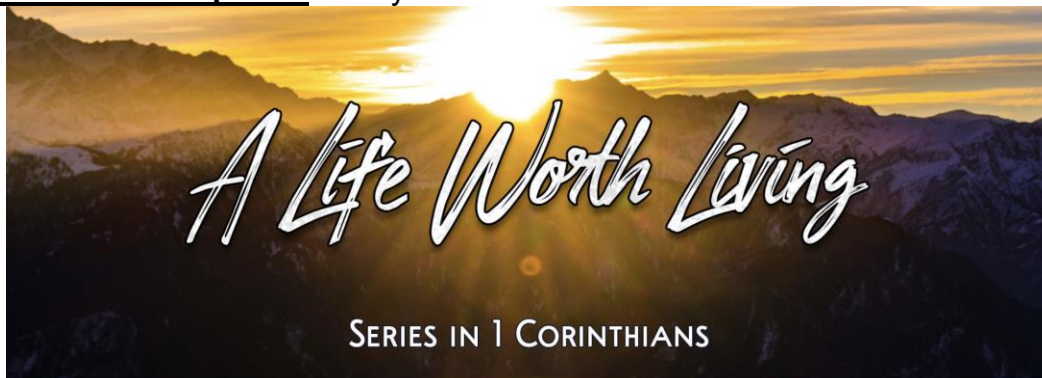

She left her water! Nothing else mattered. That’s what happens when you meet Jesus. Jesus said, “It would be good if you believe me.” Folks, that might be the understatement of the universe! Whether or not we believe Jesus will determine whether we go to heaven or hell. QUESTION: Did you see WHEN the Samaritan woman believed? Did you see her go “ah-ha?” That’s when she believed! I’ve seen that look many times. I’ve seen that look in this room...

I’ve watched people’s faces (I so wish I could do that now, but I can’t)...but, I’ve watched people’s faces as I’m preaching and I can see when people get to that moment... Their eyes open wide and often their mouths and there it is “ah-ha.” And that’s when I smile... They get it!

Do you believe? Have you had that “ah-ha” moment in your life? You must in order to be saved... Now, I’m not saying it’s GOT to show on your face...but, you and I must come to the place that we understand who Jesus is and choose to follow Him. And, this doesn’t happen JUST intellectually. Following Jesus is not JUST learning a bunch of facts and taking a true/false test and getting 70% right and then you’re in... No...this is what we talked about last week... Being a follower of Jesus is not JUST about intelligence or a High IQ. Being a follower of Christ is coming to the place that our hearts are wrenched and we realize we are a sinner and we understand we have nowhere to turn but Jesus...we realize He’s our only hope and it’s at THAT point of repentance that salvation invades the human soul... It’s “ah-ha.”

This morning we’re going to see that moment from 1 Corinthians, chapter 2. **Turn there in your Bibles. 1 Corinthians chapter 2.** Today we continue in our series...

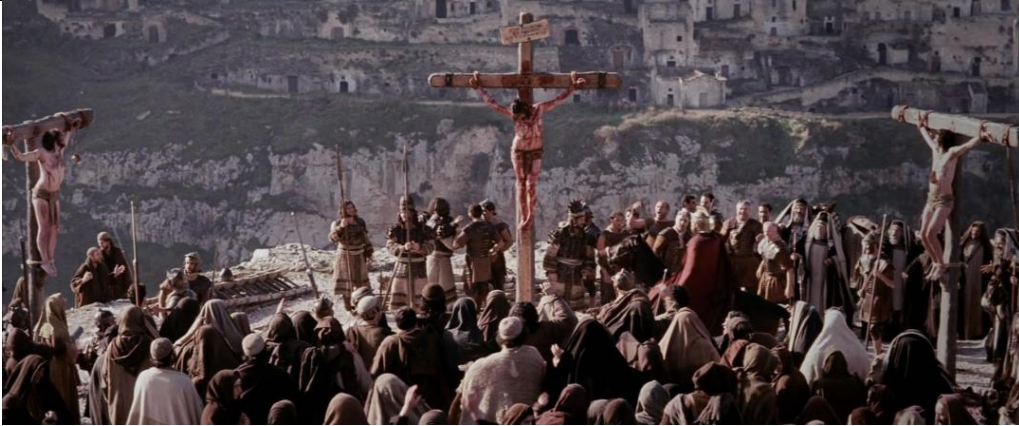


“A Life Worth Living.” According to John 6, the Samaritan woman had led a pretty miserable life... I think anyone would have to admit that. She was ostracized by the community as she bounced from one relationship to another... No doubt she was living a life of confusion and pain... Yet Jesus came to her. He went through Samaria FOR HER...(and Church...just as we were singing)...she went from “Graves into Gardens.” See the lyrics... Her life was a grave and what does Jesus do when we believe in Him... He...

**You turn morning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You’re the only one who can**

Jesus did this AND HE DID THIS FOR MY LIFE. Jesus changed me from the inside out. I’m like the Samaritan Woman in that He came to me and said, “Kevin, are you going to follow me or not.” I

said, "Yes," just as she did. AND YET, this is so important that we understand...people will look at us and think we're crazy! They will say we're fools! Worshiping someone you can't even see... Oh...remember church family...the world sees a man dying on a cross and says...



"That's foolish!" And yet, in the WISDOM OF GOD...that's the payment for sin. That's what we saw last week, right... The world's wisdom and God's wisdom are two different things... and today we will go deeper into God's wisdom with Part 2 of our message...and we're going to see the impact and influence of the Spirit of God. Follow along now...

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.^[d] ¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Church family, the believers at Corinth had forgotten the cost of their salvation. They had gotten their eyes off of the cross. They were a divided people and they were squabbling like babies, arguing over a toy. They were still on the milk and because of this...they had lost the joy of following Christ...because they were looking to the world and the things of the world to make them happy. And that's what immature Christians do...they look to the world to bring them satisfaction...and it just won't work... Paul calls us to be mature...so we can receive God's wisdom. Watch it...

1 Corinthians 2:6

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away.

Church family, according to the Word of God, here in verse 6, only the mature are going to get wisdom... Listen carefully, you CANNOT be an immature Christian and be wise. God will not

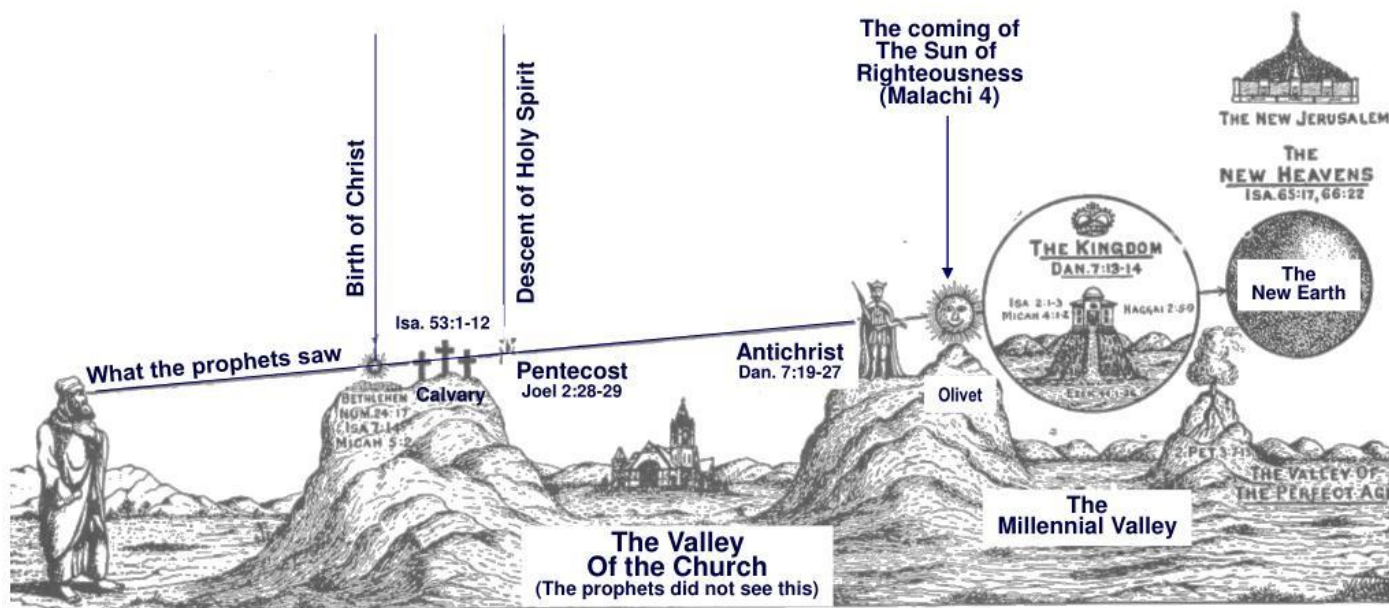
impart wisdom to you if you aren't seeking Him. Yet, for those who do...James...the half-brother of Jesus, tells us that we can ask for wisdom and get it. And again...this is not a worldly wisdom based on intellect or position because all of that will pass away...Godly wisdom come from...God. And here's what's really amazing...there was something about this wisdom that was hidden until Jesus came.

1 Corinthians 2:7

7 But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.

Now church...that phrase: "secret and hidden wisdom" of God is nothing new to the New Testament. This "secret and hidden wisdom of God" is described elsewhere in the NT as a "mystery." This mystery is a "sacred secret" that was hidden to the Old Testament prophets...the OT writers. You say, "What is this mystery? Is this some Sherlock Holmes Mystery we've got to figure out?" No...it's simple... The mystery is US! The hidden mystery to the OT saints was "The Church." You see, the Old Testament prophets couldn't see or understand us. Take a look at this chart. It's been around a long time...it's called the "Mountain Peaks of Prophecy." It's an excellent graphic.

The "Mountain Peaks" of Prophecy



Our View Point

The Old Testament Valley
The viewpoint of the Prophets

We see the Mountain Peaks & Valleys from the side,
And so we can separate the 1st & 2nd Coming Prophecies

The OT Prophets were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit to write what they wrote...just like the authors of the NT letters. Yet, there were times, the OT writers didn't understand everything they were writing...they just wrote it down as it was given to them.

Now listen...there was something these OT writers couldn't see... See the chart... See the depiction of the OT prophet standing there on the left... He saw the birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem as prophesied by Micah... they saw the Tribulation...as Daniel did...they saw the Messiah in the Millennial Kingdom, as did Ezekiel and Zechariah did...and they saw all the way to

the New Jerusalem and the New Earth...as Isaiah did. But, they couldn't see the "Valley of the Church." They couldn't see us. They only saw the nation of Israel. The mystery of God was the fact that YES...the Messiah would come through the nation of Israel...and yes...Israel is God's chosen people...but, God in His foreknowledge chose US too...those of us who would make up the Bride of Christ...the Church...to become children in His family.

I love the old Doxology song says: I'm so glad I'm part of the family of God! Paul reminds the Corinthians that they are part of the family of God...they had created cliques and factions...but Paul says, you are part of the MYSTERY that has now been revealed. But church, there were others who couldn't understand this mystery too... Look at verse 8...

1 Corinthians 2:8

⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Who are the rulers of this age? Think about it? It's not a King or emperors or monarchs... It's Satan and his demonic hoard... Eventually we'll get to 2 Corinthians 4:4. See it...

2 Corinthians 4:4

⁴ In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Church, when Jesus was hanging on the cross...when this was happening...



Satan and his demonic hoard were celebrating...they thought they had won! But, Sunday came! And when Jesus came out of the tomb, Satan and his demons were shocked. Listen, Satan understands Scripture...he's read it all...but, according to 1 Corinthians 2:8, he too, didn't understand the death of Jesus had to happen in order for salvation to be purchased for unbelievers. See it again...

1 Corinthians 2:8

⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Satan is a pawn...and God "plays him" all the time. Satan is like a dog on a leash. He's a dog on God's leash and he's like the ocean tides...he can only go so far... Satan only has the power to do what God allows him to do. Satan thought he had won on Friday, as Jesus hung on the cross...but, Sunday came and Jesus got up from the dead conquering death, Hell and the grave...and once again showed Satan that He had won the victory. Jesus is seated in heaven with the Victor's Crown!

Now look at verse 9...it's so often taken out of context and used to talk about heaven...but, that's not what it's talking about. Watch it...

1 Corinthians 2:9

⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—

That's a quote from the prophet Isaiah (64:4)...it's not about heaven...it's about now. You say, "How do you know?" Well, keep reading...look at verse 10...and we'll see the verse in context... In fact, let's read verses 9 and 10 together...

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

⁹ But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"— ¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

Church, verses 9 and 10 are for today. It's true: No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined what God has prepared for us TODAY for those who love Him... What things? The deep truths of God.

You see, when Jesus was talking to the Samaritan woman at the well...He said that the day was coming that we would worship Him in Spirit and truth...from the head and the HEART! Do you get it...the heart... That's the part that says: "nor THE HEART OF MAN imagined." Church, we have SO limited what the Spirit of God wants to do in our lives because we have substituted the things of this world for Him. Our hearts don't long for Him...but the pleasures and the trinkets of this world.

We've been in the thoughts of this virus for weeks now and I just wonder... how much more time have we actually spent with Jesus? Are you spending any more time in prayer...reading His word...being still before Him? I'm afraid most haven't. Oh, I know one thing's for sure we've all watched a lot more TV and movies, Netflix and Disney + and sports from 25 years ago. I get it. But, do you think Jesus might be looking down from heaven and saying, **"I've allowed the shut-down of the world to get your attention so that no eye, nor ear, nor heart could imagine the joy that I have waiting for you, if you would just spend time with me."** Listen...Yes, Jesus died on the cross to give you eternal life...but, He ALSO died on the cross to give you an abundant life NOW! Jesus said in...

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Maybe you're watching today and you don't know Jesus. You know about Him...but, you don't really know Him...and perhaps the Holy Spirit is drawing you this morning... Spirit and truth... Jesus said to the woman.

Listen, NOW would be a good time for you to call on His name. Do you believe? That's what Jesus asked the Samaritan woman and she went: "Ah-ha." Is that you? Are you ready to believe and follow Him? Listen, **we want to help you**, and we have people available right now to do it. Just let us know from where you're watching. We can do that right now. Would you just let us know? We're just a click away...don't wait... If the Holy Spirit is drawing you...we're here to help!

I want you to be saved...but I understand you can't be saved unless the Holy Spirit is drawing you. I have to remind myself of that all the time. Because you see...I want you to be saved...but, I can't do it for you! I WISH I COULD REACH THROUGH THE COMPUTER OR PHONE AND DO THAT FOR YOU! But I can't...no human can do that for another human. Only the Spirit of God can save a human being. It's the Spirit of God who knows us and speaks to us. That's verses 11 and 12...

1 Corinthians 2:11-12

¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.

Let me ask you a question. Do you know me? Many of you may say, "Yeah...you're Pastor Kevin and you are tall and bald and you're married and have children and grandchildren." Right. But, do you really know me? You see, you don't me like I know me. And I don't know you like you know you. **And let me tell you something else...we're not as good as we think we are or try to pretend to be... You know we even LIE to ourselves about ourselves. Why?**

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

You see, there are things in our lives that we don't want to admit. We build up things in our minds to salve our own consciences. We seek to make ourselves out to be better than we are...hoping others will believe it, and you know what...if we're not careful, we can begin believing our own made-up-truth so that we can feel better about ourselves.

We all have what I'll call "selective honesty"...that's the honesty about ourselves that we want people to think about us...believe about us. Truth is: the Holy Spirit must be allowed to come and to pierce through that façade that we've constructed for others to see...that fake façade we've even started believing about ourselves...so that we can see who we really are. After all, Jesus said that's the job of the Holy Spirit? Jesus said in John 16:7...

John 16:7-8

⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

So you see, here in 1 Corinthians 2, the Apostle Paul is trying to remind the Corinthian believers of the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They've gotten all wrapped up in the worldly ways of Corinth...worldly wisdom and not Godly wisdom, and they've forgotten that they're SPIRITUAL PEOPLE...

1 Corinthians 2:13

¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

Does the Holy Spirit speak to you? He should be (Romans 8 says that He bears witness with believers) and you should know how to recognize His voice. How? Because the Spirit's voice is the voice of Jesus. Jesus said, "My sheep hear me and they recognize my voice." And how does the Holy Spirit speak? With WORDS! In fact every thought that you have comes to you by way of words. You can't have a thought without thinking words. Words...the words of the Spirit aren't taught by human wisdom, but that come from God. How? From His Word... We have the Word of

God to guide us and instruct us and as we sit and study and meditate on the Word of God, the Holy Spirit teaches us and guides us.

Think about it...have you read a passage of Scripture that you've read 100 times before and the Holy Spirit teaches you something new? Sure you have. But, for so many, they never sit before the Lord with an Open Bible. In fact, they seldom sit before the Lord at all...and thus we suffer...because of lack of communion with Jesus.

Listen Christians...we're not like the world. The world can't understand us...

1 Corinthians 2:14-15

¹⁴The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one.

What does that mean? Listen, there's a distinct contrast here between the saved person and the unsaved person. The unsaved person can't understand spiritual things...it makes no sense to them. Spiritual things are foolishness to them. Therefore, they can't offer an appropriate judgment upon us because they can't discern spiritual truth. That's why it says the spiritual person is to be judged by no one. You see, the unsaved person walks by sight and they can't understand how we walk by faith and not by sight. They're spiritually blind. They need the Holy Spirit to lift the scales from their eyes. Are you praying that for your lost friends, family, loved ones?

Listen, it's the Spirit who gives us the ability to understand the things of God. That's verse 16.

1 Corinthians 2:16

¹⁶"For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Listen...the world can't understand us any better than they understood Jesus. They couldn't figure Him out and they crucified Him and they can't figure us out and they call us fools because they can't discern spiritual matters. They can't discern the things of the Spirit.

Jesus said to the Samaritan Woman...that we must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth...it's not about mountains...it's not about Temples or buildings...or intellect...it's about the heart.

As we close this morning, I want to direct your attention to this table...

It's been set-up for a meal. I'm using this as an illustration. You see, Jesus came and died on the cross so you and I might believe in Him...place our trust in Him...so that we would have our "ah-ha" moment...like the woman at the well. Because you see, by His death on the cross, He set the table so that He could have a relationship with you... He did all of that work on the cross for you. To pay your sin debt...to pay mine. You and I didn't do anything.

Now Jesus is He's seated at the right had of the Father...the work is finished...but, imagine that He's seated here at the table... A table for two...for you and for Him. And you know what...it's the Holy Spirit who acts in the role of getting you to the table... The Holy Spirit is like a host at a restaurant...when your name or number has been called...the host takes you to the table... Everything is ready... It's all been provided. And He says... "Come this way...follow me..." (He draws you to the table)...

And you come to the table and the Holy Spirit pulls out the chair and seats you at the table...and there you are... All this...to this point...has been done by God... God sent His Son to set the table...God sent His Spirit to draw you to the table, so that you could have fellowship with His Son... The meal is already there. It's piping hot and ready to eat. Will you? Will you what? Pick up the fork. It's your choice... Will you decide to eat... Jesus asked, "Do you believe?"

Do you? I pray you will have your "ah-ha" moment and eat with Him!