

Never Bow to Evil

Part 3: They Exist: People Who Hunger & Thirst for Righteousness
(preached 1/17/21)

Please turn to *Deuteronomy 8*.

Sermon #1: Never Bow or Turn a Blind Eye to Evil

- Evil exists because Satan exists & his plan is to bring his kingdom here on earth by making disciples.
- People look to see how the Church will respond—therefore we cannot pretend evil isn't there and doesn't concern us.
- We must call it out, urge repentance, and when necessary warn of impending judgment (nationwide).
- 2019 Prophetic Conference with major prophets there...none of them predicted Covid, a plague, the lockdowns, or hardship for America. They all prophesied greater realms of glory, etc.
- Human love compromises with evil and turns a blind eye to sin, affirming the flesh and nature.
- God's love inspires repentance and transformation from old self to new, overcoming the flesh and nature.

Sermon #2: Stop Wavering Between Two Opinions

- 2 Kingdoms at war for establishment: God's vs. Satan's.
- Authoritative Censorship (government, big tech) is based on fear & desire for control, it's not based on compassionate concern for safety.
- The spirit behind such censorship is the spirit of Antichrist and not the Holy Spirit.
- The Lord allows His opposition to speak and doesn't stop him/them—think of the Beast.
- He'll send prophets into the call out the evil, urge repentance, and warn of judgment...but He doesn't silence the voice or attempts to disciple on the part of evil.
- Spirit of Antichrist tries to silence, muffle, distort, and twist the voices of its opposition.
- True Days of Elijah were spiritual civil war.
- Elijah sent to cause Israel to choose between Light or Darkness.
- A wavering Church is a weak church whose light is flickering and not shining.
- Our own Elijah miracle was Jesus! Both fire from Heaven and rendering prophets of Baal to no effect.

TODAY: Don't believe the lies of the Devil: **there *are* people—unbelievers & Saved—who hunger and thirst for the righteousness Jesus bought for us at the Cross!**

DON'T BOW TO EVIL! IT'S NOT AN AUTHORITATIVE SOURCE OF KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, OR REALITY.

- It tries to tell us that it's winning and that people are only falling away from Christ and not toward Him.
- It attempts to convince us everyone wants what it has to offer, and not what Jesus has to offer.
- It's trying to intimidate us into thinking the Gospel can't compete with technology and entertainment.
- It hopes to scare us that the price of losing relationships and offending others isn't worth it.
- It tries to shame us into thinking that we're being judgmental and intolerant.

2020 DATING APP. Are not horrible things happening in our country and the world right now? I just saw a funny dating app commercial where Satan hooks up with 2020—played by a woman—and they become a couple. The ending was hilarious: the two of them sitting on a park bench together with fiery comets falling from the sky and hitting a city and Satan says “I just never want this year to end!”

SAME STUFF INSPIRES? What does the circumstance of “same stuff, different day” tend to inspire? Is there a greater chance that either society or individuals will be humbled, repent, pray, and seek the face of God?

TOUGH TIMES INSPIRE? What do hard and trying circumstances like 2020 tend to provoke? Yes, it can make people bitter and angry, but tough times also have a way of softening us, bringing us to our knees, and crying out to God.

When what we normally depend on fails us, we're set up to hunger and thirst for the righteousness that Jesus bled and died for.

WHY? The darkness we're dwelling in is deep, we can't get ourselves out of it, so we seek the Light of the world Who is Christ...and which Christ placed in the Church.

Deuteronomy 8:1-5 (ESV)

¹ “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers.

² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not.

³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

⁴ Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years.

⁵ Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you.

11 DAY TREK! The Lord is speaking to His Hebrew people as their wanderings through the desert have come to an end. I recall years ago watching a documentary about the Exodus which said it should only have taken 11 days to walk between Egypt and Canaan.... I've taken long trips where unforeseen things happen to cause delays: a flat tire, a breakdown, bad weather...but 11 days to 40 years is a serious pause!

God tells us the purpose: it was to humble them.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF BEING HUMBLLED? SO THAT WE HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

What does this hunger & thirst accomplish within us?

- Following God vs. the Devil. Following Him into His Kingdom and fighting for it, vs. following the spirit of Antichrist into the Beast and warring for that.
- It inspires a true desire to pursue being made into the image of Christ.

FOCUS ON FAITHFUL. We focus on the Hebrew people who lacked faith when they got to the Jordan, but please remember there was an entire generation—mostly the younger generation!—who agreed with Joshua & Caleb's "let's possess the land" and then followed him into the PM with praise in their hearts toward God!

BEAUTITUDES. In the famous beatitudes, Jesus is acknowledging that there are people who are sick and tired of living in the darkness and desire the righteousness of Christ:

Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

SATISFIED. Look at the guarantee our Lord and Savior made at the end of this verse: those who want this WILL be satisfied!

CRAVINGS? Have you ever had a craving for something in particular—let's say ice cream—but you can't get it? Whether the store is out, your car broke down, not enough money...you're totally in the mood for IC but it's not going to happen.

JESUS GIVES GENEROUSLY. There are people like that for righteousness and, better yet, the Lord will give them this bread just as He promised in Deuteronomy 8.

Isaiah 55:1-3 (ESV)

¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

HUNGER FOR HIM...INCLUDES RIGHTEOUSNESS. The Lord may have denied my requests to send me a 5 figure check in the mail, but whenever you and I want His righteousness He not only gives freely, but with massive generosity! It’s quite popular to say that we want HIM, we hunger for HIM and this is a good declaration. Do we understand that wanting God means being thirsty for righteousness? Not just the gifts of the Spirit so that we may prophesy, nor the Spirit fruit of joy and peace...but if we really want Jesus we also want His righteousness because that Who He is.

NO CHANGE AFTER SAVED. Years ago there was a young man I knew and shared the gospel with and, to my initial delight, he prayed the sinner’s prayer with me right on the spot! Yet his ungodly lifestyle continued after...nothing changed whatsoever. When I would see him, I would point this out and call upon him to repent but to no avail.

FINALLY READY. It was years later that he suddenly showed up at church and, after service was over, he grabbed by hand in a tight grip and said “Scott, I don’t want it anymore...I hate the way I live. All I’ve been doing is partying and I don’t want to live this way anymore!” What was the difference between when he prayed the sinner’s prayer and this moment? He finally hungered after righteousness. Life had chewed him up, spit him out, and he was finally willing to cry out to God to feed him.

John 6:31-35 (ESV)

³¹ Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

³² Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

REFERENCING DEUT. Jesus is referencing the verses in Deuteronomy that I started out quoting today—now He is the bread of water of life, willing to confer His righteousness to us forever!

Psalm 63:1 (ESV)

¹ O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

FALLOUT GAME. I played a video game which takes place in a post nuclear war world, and one of the biggest threats to survival is the “wormwood” water which is not only polluted but contaminated by radiation. It must be boiled and then purified before it can be drank, a long and arduous process.

WORMWOOD/BACKSLIDING. This world is dry and weary, and there is no “water” in it as David stated. Or it’s been polluted by “wormwood” and would make us spiritually sick. Can a Christian be hungry and thirsty for righteousness? I say yes, because backsliding is a real thing and it’s often when we’ve been humbled that we fall to our knees, repent, and seek the face of Christ.

CHURCH NEEDS BRIGHT, NOT FLICKER. Therefore I say again, both unbelievers and backslidden Christians need a consistent bright shining Light they can find their way too—and that’s the Church that Jesus built. The Church cannot be a flickering light that tries that preaches hyper affirming love and distorted grace, shying away from calling out evil and urging repentance. We can’t flow with the changing tides of earthly morality which have shifted over the years, nor can we jump on the bandwagon of current “wokeness” and call it godliness. We must hold firm to the Word of God no matter the cost!

NOT ALWAYS READY. Not everyone is in a place to receive the Gospel and quotations from the Bible. Not everybody is in a place where they truly desire the righteousness of Jesus along with joy and prophecy. Yet I will say this and I’ve said it before: when you and I are a consistently bright light, when people are ready...we’re the ones they seek out.

DAVID BARTON. I just listened to an interesting sermon by David Barton, whose a well known Christian speaker who focuses on American History. He’s got a razor sharp mind and memory and when he spoke of the 2 great awakenings that took place in our country, he found a fascinating common denominator in the sermons: they were calls to holiness and not Salvation.

PREACH DISCIPLESHIP NOT CONVERSION. Isn’t that interesting? The stance of the GA preachers was that only those who were truly hungry and thirsty for righteousness would be able to hear their sermons in a revelatory manner, so they were speaking right TO them. Do you understand what that means?

“EVERYONE” MESSAGE. Modern day evangelism tries to speak to “everyone” where the GA preachers molded their messages to the people who were truly ready and just started telling them about righteousness, and that they needed to walk in it. The results were 2 revivals that ran for decades!!!

In His Bible, God says they exist! Therefore I make the proposal that you & I start talking to THEM.

“How do we know who is who?” you ask?

JUST AS IF. Initially we don’t and that’s not the point. ***The idea is to speak just as if any hearers ARE...the Word of God itself will do the separating as stated in Hebrews 4:12.***

Milk toast “seeker friendly” messages aimed at caressing “everyone” are creating fickle converts who believe that God has affirmed them and they never have to repent and change. That His job is to be their servant and give them their hearts desire, no matter what that is. These messages don’t appeal to people who want righteousness, but only joy, peace, prophecy, and healing.

SEEK FIRST.... What did Jesus say in Matthew 6? We’re to seek after righteousness FIRST, then all the other stuff comes later. Affirming love and twisted grace teachings bypass righteousness and go right for everything that comes after.

What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would convict the world of? Righteousness.

SIMON THE MAGICIAN. I end today with the story of Simon the Magician whose spiritual journey started out crooked, but ended up straight:

Acts 8:9-24 (ESV)

⁹ But there was a man named Simon, who had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he himself was somebody great.

¹⁰ They all paid attention to him, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the power of God that is called Great.”

¹¹ And they paid attention to him because for a long time he had amazed them with his magic.

¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

¹³ Even Simon himself believed, and after being baptized he continued with Philip. And seeing signs and great miracles performed, he was amazed.

SAVED? So far so seemingly good: started out as pagan magician and seems to get Saved and following Phillip. Let's read on:

- ¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John,
¹⁵ who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit,
¹⁶ for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
¹⁷ Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.
¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,
¹⁹ saying, "Give me this power also, so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!
²¹ You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.
²² Repent, therefore, of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you.
²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity."
²⁴ And Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may come upon me."

Peter's message to Simon wasn't affirming nor seeker friendly. He calls out Simon's sin and urging him to repent, even telling him that if he doesn't he can't be part of the church!!! If Peter were to be the guest speaker in some charismatic churches today and said this, I think he'd get kicked out and asked never to return.

SIMON'S RESPONSE? What's Simon's response to Peter's rebuke? Does he immediately fall into offense, leave the church, and then tell everyone how badly he was treated by those Christians who were only supposed to love on him? No...why? Answer: he truly sought after righteousness, wanting it like the famous Biblical deer than panteth! THAT person will receive a Godly rebuke for what it is: the love of God helping to make our crooked paths straight.

HOW did Peter speak to Simon? Same way the GA preachers did—just as if they were already people SEEKING righteousness.

I repeat our takeaway for today: **LET OUR MESSAGES TO OTHERS BE FORMED JUST AS IF THE HEARER IS HUNGRY AND THIRSTY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**