

Forming a Spiritual Atmosphere for His Presence

A sermon by Pastor Scott Tivolacci

1. Cultivating a Clean Environment for the Presence of God

- Passion and Desire
- Love and Unity
 - As oxygen is to a fire to keep it burning, so is unity to spiritual atmosphere to keep God presence burning.
 - *Colossians 3:14*
 - One Accord
 - *Acts 1:14*
 - *Acts 2:1*

2. The works of the Devil

- *John 10:10 - **The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.** My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*
- *John 8:42 – 45*
 - Steal, kill and destroy is to keep us away from abundant/satisfying life.
 - Evil things start with being selfish, self-centered, manipulative, and benefiting by destructing others.
 - Murderer – manslayer.
 - Inside or out, the devil and truth have no connection.
 - Liar and father of lies – a conscious falsehood to manipulate the situation for ones benefit.

3. Example of the Woman caught in Adultery

- Jesus was saying that the Pharisees were walking in darkness for accusing the woman in adultery.
- *John 8:12 - "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you will not have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life."*
 - Darkness – Why?
 - This happened after the woman was caught in adultery. They were walking in darkness because of what was in their heart.
 - They had in their heart murder and lying to keep their power and authority.
 - Darkness, Evil, Murder, Lies – no truth
 - Religious – Political Spirit – Evil

4. Loving our brother

- *1 John 2:9 -11 - The one who says he is in **the Light and yet hates his brother is in the darkness until now.** The one who loves his brother abides in the Light and there is no cause for stumbling in him. But the one who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness and does not know where he is going because the darkness has blinded his eyes.*
- *1 John 3:15 - He who does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.*
- *1 John 4:20-21 - If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*
 - John used this strong language because he knew these were destructive forces that can work in all of us. He saw himself in all of them.

- He knew he walked in darkness and did not know where he was going.
- He knew he was a murderer.
- He knew he was liar.

5. John and James

- Sons of Thunder – Wuest Commentary refers to them as Sons of Tumults. I would call them bulls in a China closet.
- *Luke 9:51-56*
 - Background – of Samaria and Jesus
 - Samaria was between Jerusalem and most Jews walked around Jerusalem on their way to Samaria.
 - Why did Jesus think it would be ok to walk through there? Because He already spent some time there.
 - What was John saying?
 - Destroy and kill them – disintegrate them – burn them up!!!
 - John took on the role of judge, jury, and executioner.
 - Where did John get this mindset that he had this type of authority? - *Luke 9:18, Matt 16, Luke 9:46 -48, Matt 18:1*
 - John was on a roll – He was trying to stop others from using the name of Jesus to cast out devils.

6. What Spirit was John of?

- The Devil – Murderer, Hater
- What was motivating John? - Rejection, Selfish Ambition, Self-Seeking, and Pride
- The day John realized that this spirit could rest in all of us, it rested in Him!!!

7. Jesus' Compassion and Understanding of the Samaritans

- Jesus understood the historical issue between the Jews and Samaritans – rejection and pain ran deep.
- They did not understand why He was doing what He was doing, but neither did the disciples.
- Jesus knew that God was going to pour His Spirit on them and work in their hearts.

8. What do we need to be mindful of – and how do we facilitate the Spirit of Unity?

- See people through their calling and not through their faults and mistakes.
- Stop separating and categorizing people by their perceived shortcoming. You can still learn from them.
- We are always learning to discern the difference between good and evil. When you see something evil, **don't be the one who initiates the retribution of judgment for their misgivings.**
- Be humble and understand how easily we can be deceived and manipulated but by the grace of God.

9. Epistle of James sums it all up

James 3:13-18 - ¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.