

Southside Baptist Church
Wednesday Night Worship - 1-21-26
Matthew Chapter 20 Part 5
Understanding better your position in Christ.

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) The other 10 disciples were angry, "moved with indignation" when they heard what Jesus was asked.
 - a) Why were they so angry?
 - b) Identity isn't linked to a position or status in this life but to the position and status you have in Christ.
- 2) Jesus challenged their worldly view of what greatness truly is.
 - a) Verse 26 – "whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister."
- 3) The servant's heart is humble before the Lord, listens and obeys, seeks the interests of others and sees serving as an act of worship.
- 4) Jesus restated His point with more emphasis in verse 27.
- 5) Jesus finished by pointing them to what He is modeling.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) I want to answer a question about identity.
- 2) If your identity (value, worth, significance) isn't linked to a position or status in this life, then what is it linked to?

2. This problem did start in the Garden.

a. Bear with me in this a minute.

- 1) When you begin to talk about our identity and the struggle that can take place in someone's life over this, you can't help but go back to what happened at the Tree of Knowledge.
- 2) The truth I see is related to this issue in the Garden. Genesis 3:1-5
 - a) The serpent convinced her something was missing. Incomplete. God's fault.
- 3) Isn't that how this still plays out today?
- 4) What if you already have, as a believer, what you are searching for?

b. God would restore what was lost that day.

- 1) God put forth a promise that would end on a cross and restore what was lost.
- 2) Will we accept Christ's death as the payment for our sins and discover the powerful implications of our salvation or will we continue to follow after satan's lies and deception?
 - a) Faith and then a pursuit to know what God has said.
 - b) A "new creation in Christ" – a new identity completely different than you could have ever fathomed.
- 3) Let's review what happened the day you repented and believed.

c. May this blow your mind afresh!

- 1) All your sins are forgiven; past, present and future.
 - a) "And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;
¹⁴ Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;" Col. 2:13-14
 - b) Your POSITION in Christ – Holy, blameless, without reproach.
- 2) You become a child of God.
 - a) "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name;" John 1:12

- b) "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father." Romans 8:15
- c) This position of being called a child of God is only because you are positioned in Christ.
- 3) You received eternal life.
 - a) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." John 5:24
 - b) Your position for all of eternity is with God and is only true because you are positioned in Christ.
- 4) You are delivered from satan's domain and transferred into the kingdom of Christ.
 - a) "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:" Col. 1:13
 - b) This transfer is your new position because you are positioned in Christ.
- 5) Christ comes to dwell within you.
 - a) "To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:" Col. 1:27
 - b) Fruit of the Christ-life in your life is evidence of your position in Christ.
- 6) You become a new creation.
 - a) "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17
 - b) Being made a "new creation" is evidence that you have a new position which is "in Christ."
- 7) You are declared righteous by God.
 - a) "For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." II Cor. 5:21
 - b) You are seen by God as righteous which is your new position in Christ as a believer.
- 8) You are accepted by God.
 - a) "For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; ²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. ²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unrepentable in his sight:" Col. 1:19-22
- 9) Believer, all these things are true of you no matter how you feel, no matter what you are going through.
- d. What are the implications for your life from these truths?
 - 1) Understand, satan's deceptions do not end when you are placed in Christ.
 - 2) The successful lie was that Eve could have significance/value/worth apart from God and she could achieve this by disobeying God and eating the fruit that God had said not to.
 - 3) Adam and Eve were robbed of where their true self-worth was found.
 - 4) This is something you should meditate on for a time.
 - a) My identity is not based on my behavior but on my new birth.
- e. The foundational truth of Position and Condition.
 - 1) Position – as a believer you were positioned in Christ at salvation therefore whatever God says is true of you is true no matter what.
 - 2) Condition – where we are in our walk with the Lord. We are either walking in the Spirit with no known sin or walking in the flesh because of unconfessed sin.
- 3. Tonight's Takeaway:
 - a. What I want you to think about when you leave tonight.

1) Your condition, no matter where you are in your walk with the Lord can never change/impact your position in Christ. However, as you come to understand your position in Christ, that understanding can have a dramatic impact on your condition.