

Psalm 19

- What brings life to a dead soul?
- What brings wisdom to a dead mind?
- What brings joy to a dead heart?
- What brings light to unseeing eyes?
- What exposes sin and gives warning?



Lesson 8:
The Church Responds to Poor Stewardship
The Pre-Reformers

How did we get here?

- Pragmatism
 - Need to save the church from the barbarians
 - Need to save the church from the Muslims
- Low View of Scripture
 - Replaced by the mass/eucharist
 - Replaced by baptism
 - Replaced by penance/indulgences

The Church Sheathed Her Sword

κατα Ιωαννην
σκαλός, ουδεις εστι ταυτα τα σημεια δυνάται
ποιειν, εαν συ ποιεις, εαν μη ο θεος μετ' αυτ',
απεκριθη ο ΙΗΣΟΥΣ και ειπερ αυτω. αμην α
μην λεγω σοι. εαν μη τις γεννηθη ανωθεν
ου δυναται ιδειν την βασιλειαν του θεου.
λεγει προς αυτον ο νικodemus. πως δυνα
ται ανθρωπος γεννηθηναι γερων ων; μη
δυναται εις την κοιλιαν μητρως αυτου
δευτερον εισελθειν και γεννηθηναι; απεκρι
θη ο ΙΗΣΟΥΣ. αμην αμην λεγω σοι. εαν μη
τις γεννηθη εξ υδατος και πνευματος, ου
δυναται εισελθειν εις την βασιλειαν του θεου.
το γεγεννημενον εκ της σαρκος, σαρξ εστιν. το
γεγεννημενον εκ του πνευματος, πνευμα
εστιν. μη θαυμασθης, οτι ειπωμ σοι, οτι δε υ

gister. Nemo enim potest hæc signa fa
cere quæ tu facis, nisi fuerit deus cū eo.
Respondit Iesus, & dixit ei. Amen amē
dico tibi, nisi quis renatus fuerit denuo
non potest uidere regnū dei. Dicit ad
eū Nicodemus. Quomodo potest ho
mo nasci cum sit senex? Nū potest ho
mo in uentrē matris suæ iterato introi
re & renasci? Respondit Iesus. Amen
amen dico tibi, nisi quis renatus fuerit
ex aqua & spiritu, non potest introi
re in regnum dei. Quod natum est
ex carne, caro est, & quod natum est ex
spiritu, spiritus est. Nō mireris, quod di
xi tibi, oportet uos nasci denuo. Spiri

The Church Hid Her Sword

- The Alexandrian method of the 4th cent. became predominant
 - Never the plain meaning, but the “hidden” meaning
 - Allegory replaced straight-line exposition

Augustine on Luke 10:30-37

- The Traveler = Adam
- Jerusalem = Adam fell from
- Jericho = Adam's Morality
- Robbers = Devil & Demons
- Stripping = Depriving Adam of immortality
- Beating = Encouragement to sin
- Left for dead = Spiritual death
- Priest & Levite = Ineffective Old Covenant
- Good Samaritan = Christ
- Binding Wounds = Restraining sin
- Oil = The Holy Spirit
- Wine = Encouragement for good works
- Donkey = Christ's body
- Inn = The Church
- Innkeeper = Paul
- Samaritan's Return = Christ's Return

The Sheep cut off from the Shepherd

- The Problem
 - The Scriptures are inerrant & thus have a single meaning
 - The church is in charge of providing that meaning
 - The people cannot read for themselves anyway
 - The church places itself OVER the Scriptures rather than under them

The Waldensians (1184-1500s)

- French merchant Valdes (Waldes) circa 1170
 - Convicted by the Rich Young Ruler
 - Embraced Poverty
 - Devoted to Preaching in and around Lyons France



The Waldensians

- Followers: The poor men of Lyon
 - Prohibited from preaching because they were not clergy
 - Ignored the church's ruling and thus excommunicated
 - Began rethinking ministry

The Movement

- Waldensians spread into Spain, Austria and parts of Germany
- Trained preachers
- Supported by some Catholics who sympathized with their cause
- Characteristics that Defined the Movement
 - Voluntary Poverty
 - Lay Preaching
 - The Authority of the Bible

The Inquisition

- Pope Innocent III
 - Strove to center all the church around the papacy
 - Sniff out heretics, torture them until they confess, then kill them
 - Waldensians branded as heretics

John Wycliffe (1330-84)

- English theologian educated at Oxford
- Advisor to King Edward III
- Antagonist to the Papacy
- Popular with the People



Wycliffe the Writer

- **The Truth of Holy Scripture**
 - The Bible is the only source of Christian doctrine
 - All Christians should read the Bible
- **On the Church**
 - The universal/invisible collection of the elect
 - Not outward organization ruled by the Pope
- **The Power of the Pope**
 - Papacy is a human construct not divine
 - All popes have usurped Christ and thus are antichrists
- **On the Eucharist**
 - Transubstantiation = heresy
 - Preferred the Eastern view

Wycliffe the Outcast

- Transubstantiation was the last straw
 - Branded a heretic
 - Lost all support
- Retired to his parish where he served as priest
 - Wrote tracts to the people in English
 - Defended his views in Latin
 - Assembled a team to translate the Bible into English
 - Sent out preachers armed with sermons not sacraments

Wycliffe's Legacy

- Died in 1384 - Before the completion of the first English Bible
 - Dug up in 1418 and burned as a heretic
- His Followers - The Lollards
 - Lollard = mumblers (reciting scripture/praying/singing)
 - Outlawed and heavily persecuted
 - Forced underground

John Huss (1372-1415)

- Bohemian preacher & scholar
 - Bethlehem Chapel
 - Prague University
- Admirer of Wycliffe
 - Views of national identity
 - Views on indulgences
- Independant Thinker
 - Stuck to transubstantiation



John Huss The Instigator

- In 1411 began attacking indulgences with vigor
 - Christ ALONE has the power to forgive sins
- Pope John XIII excommunicated Huss and threatened Prague
- Huss left Prague for southern Bohemia

John Huss The Martyr

- Huss continued to argue that:
 - Christ was head of the church, not the pope
 - The pope was not infallible
 - Indulgences are evil
- Made more enemies than friends
- Called to the Council of Constance (1414)
 - Tried
 - Condemned
 - Burned (1415)

Conclusion

- Christ raised up men who were awakened BY HIS WORD to stand up to the very men who supposed to be teaching them
- Conviction from God's WORD changed hearts and minds
- The "church" responded by persecuting the men who pled for her repentance