

8/23/2009

THE CALL TO WORSHIP AND THE PSALM Psalm 19

Lay Minister: 1 The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

People: 2 Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Lay Minister: 3 There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.

People: 4 Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.

In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun,

Lay Minister: 5 which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion, like a champion

rejoicing to run his course.

People: 6 It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing

is hidden from its heat.

Lay Minister: 7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are

trustworthy, making wise the simple.

People: 8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands

of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

Lay Minister: 9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD

are sure and altogether righteous.

People: 10 They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter

than honey, than honey from the comb. 11 By them is your servant

warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

Lay Minister: 12 Who can discern his errors?

People: Forgive my hidden faults.

Lay Minister: 13 Keep your servant also from willful sins;

People: may they not rule over me. Then will I be blameless, innocent of great

transgression.

Lay Minister: 14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your

sight,

People: O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Lay Minister: We begin our worship seeking the wisdom, the blessings, the guidance of the

Lord.

People: We begin in the name of God the Father, and in the name of God the Son,

and in the name of God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY Heavenly Father, we need your help through out life, and we need your help to live as Your Children. When our hearts are proud and disobedient, bless us with faithful humility so that we may willingly do you will and obey your commands. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 29:11-19

(God commends the humble, and corrects those who refused to follow Him because of their pride.)

11 For you this whole vision is nothing but words sealed in a scroll. And if you give the scroll to someone who can read, and say to him, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I can't; it is sealed." 12 Or if you give the scroll to someone who cannot read, and say, "Read this, please," he will answer, "I don't know how to read." **13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.** 14 Therefore once more I will astound these people with wonder upon wonder; the wisdom of the wise will perish, the intelligence of the intelligent will vanish."

15 Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?" 16 You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?

17 In a very short time, will not Lebanon be turned into a fertile field and the fertile field seem like a forest? 18 In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.

19 Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

THE SECOND LESSON Ephesians 5:21-33 page

(Paul shares direction from God of love for families and His family, the Church.)

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and

mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh."

32 This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33 However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 7:1-13

(*Worship in*

purity of heart.)

1 The Pharisees and some of the teachers of the law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus and 2 saw some of his disciples eating food with hands that were "unclean," that is, unwashed. 3 (The Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they give their hands a ceremonial washing, holding to the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace they do not eat unless they wash. And they observe many other traditions, such as the washing of cups, pitchers and kettles.)

5 So the Pharisees and teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Why don't your disciples live according to the tradition of the elders instead of eating their food with 'unclean' hands?"

6 He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: "'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.' 8 You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men."

9 And he said to them: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! 10 For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.' 11 But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: 'Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban' (that is, a gift devoted to God), 12 then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. 13 Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that."

THE SERMON "God's help to do His will"

Isaiah 29

Key Verses from Isaiah 29:

Isaiah 29: 13 The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

15 Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?"

19 Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

INTRO - Even those who are not sports fans have probably heard the name Michael Vick. He is an especially talented athlete who played professional football. He was good young and got a record contract for over \$100 million dollars. He was THAT talented! But, Vick had trouble, trouble with the fans, trouble with the team, trouble with the law. Finally he was caught running a ring of dog fighting operations. This man with the world at his fingers ended up in jail for about 2 years. The other day I heard someone describe him, saying, "It's not just what he did, but it was his attitude, I can do what I want."

I. Did you hear what Isaiah said about the people of Israel?

A. They were guilty of all sorts of sins, mainly the sin of idolatry, but also many more.

1. But Isaiah doesn't talk about their sin, he talks about the attitude, their hearts, that led to the sin.

2. In verse 13 we read **The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.** Do you hear the attitude? **THEIR HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME.**

3. In verse 15 Isaiah says of the people, **15 Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?"** Trying to appear one way, and live another, that talks of attitude.

4. It is like the Israelites had an attitude, I can do whatever I want.

B. Michael Vick is not a lone figure in our society today.

1. Leaders are often being caught doing illegal activities. It's like they think, I can do whatever I want.

2. Families break up because of disagreement or unfaithfulness. It's often like one party thinks, I can do whatever I want.

3. Even God's people pick and choose whether they want to obey commandments, and how they want to obey them, rather than looking at what God calls for and simply doing it. It is like people think, I can do whatever I want.

C. The people of Israel may have done what they wanted, but God saw and knew, and there was punishment. God punished them because their attitude and sin led to lives that were unhealthy to them, and their relationship with the Lord of life.

1. People today may think they can do what they want and God does not see.

2. There are consequences to selfish, sinful behavior, because God cares for us and does not want people to hurt themselves, nor their relationship with the Lord of life.

II. Have you ever been on a diet? If so, you know the will power and the struggle when you are trying to eat right, and there is a chocolate candy bar staring you right in the face, and calling to your taste buds. We know what is good for us, but we want to do something else.

A. Doing God's will can be a struggle for us.

1. God wants hearts that turn to him, and actions that follow those hearts.

2. God wants us to live for Him so that attitudes of faith, and love, and giving come naturally.

- B. But, Isaiah said of the Israelites, “Their hearts are far from me.”
 - 1. This is a condition common to all people since the fall into sin.
 - 2. Our hearts tend toward what we want, rather than what God wants.
 - 3. We won’t end up doing God’s will until our hearts are changed.
- C. And, just like eating that chocolate if we know we shouldn’t is bad for us, doing the desires of our sinful hearts rather than what God wants, is bad for us.
 - 1. The consequences of our sin can ruin our lives, our health, our families, our jobs, and our communities.
 - 2. There are eternal consequences too, if we don’t repent, consequences of judgement, and even hell, if people don’t turn to God.

III. Isaiah may talk about the sinful attitudes of God’s people, but at the end of this verse he talks about change. The last verse of this passage says, **19 Once more the humble will rejoice in the LORD; the needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.**

- A. When the Israelites continued in negative attitudes and sinful actions, they suffered the consequences of their sin and were conquered by foreign nations.
 - 1. This punishment was like a hit up beside the head with a 2 x 4. It made them realize the folly of their ways.
 - 2. They were humbled.
 - 3. This humility showed them that they needed to turn from their own attitudes, and turn to the Lord and his wisdom, and his righteousness, and His ways.
- B. Then When they heard of God’s continuing love, in spite of their sin, they were filled with joy.
 - 1. God continued to promise the Messiah.
 - 2. He brought them back to Israel.
 - 3. In spite of their sin God was their God.
 - 4. With is discipline and love, God changed the hearts of the Israelites.
- C. It may be hard to believe, but God works to change our hearts too.
 - 1. It doesn’t always have to be that God humbles us. Look at the world around us; the mountains, the trees, the rivers, the oceans. Do you see the majesty, the beauty, the wonder the power? God witnesses to himself and he calls us to himself in the world around us, if we will hear it! Many don’t.
 - 2. Some times God humbles us. When we suffer the consequences of our sinful and willful ways, we see our weakness and folly.
 - 3. When we see that God has sent His Son, in spite of our sin, we see His love.
 - 4. When we see our weakness and God’s’ love, this causes changed hearts that want to serve God.

CONCLUSION - Michael Vick was humiliated by his conviction, and yet still cared for by teammates and other. He has a second chance, and is speaking and acting much differently. Perhaps his humiliation and his love were more than he could ask for.

Our sermon series has been, “God’s help for the journey of life.” One of the most difficult Jobs for Christians is that we are called, not just to worship God with our actions, but with our hearts. Have you ever thought that God can use the trials of life to humble us, and call us to him? When we are humbled, and yet still hear of the Love of God he changes our hearts, so we can live in ways that are healthy to us, and healthy to our eternal welfare.

