

The Continuum Holy Dissatisfaction

Introduction:

1. Last week I said some pretty strong things but either the bible is all true or it is not
2. We can't be like Andrew Jackson who created a "scripture by subtraction"
3. Unfortunately, this is still happening today
4. **Philippians 3:12** *"Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own."*
5. We pick up the story and look at **Acts 4:23-37**
6. **Verse 29 onwards** - *"and now Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your Word with all boldness Then Lord while we are speaking out in your name with boldness – stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the holy name of your holy servant Jesus."*
7. Notice what happened when they prayed:
 - a. Place was shaken
 - b. Each of them were filled with the Holy Spirit
 - c. They continued to speak with unrestrained boldness (parresia)

Spiritual Opportunities don't last forever

1. Where Jesus Christ is involved no one can wait forever
2. On Palm Sunday, everyone was interested – but no follow through
3. Interest is good if it leads to action – otherwise like a vaccination
4. Kierkegaard was right. *"One either believes in him or is offended by him."*
5. Holy Dissatisfaction and the crossroads we come to
6. It takes courage to believe in Jesus
7. Knowledge without courage leads to an intellectual cul-de-sac

The invitation is not only to believe but to be brave

1. Christ comes again and again to the human heart – a verdict must be rendered
2. Our greatest need is for moral courage to make the right spiritual choices.
3. We need to change our thinking
 - a. **God – we need to know who God really is**
Matthew 11:30 *"Are you weary? Carrying a heavy burden? Then come to Me. I will refresh your life as you rest with Me. ²⁹Accept only the task that I give you as my true disciple-- simply join your life with Mine, and let Me be your Teacher. You'll discover that I am gentle, humble, easy to please, and I'll give you satisfying rest. ³⁰For I only place upon you what is pleasant and easy to carry."*
 - b. **We need to change our thinking about ourselves**
 - If you don't like yourself, you're going to have difficulty in every area of your life. We run *from* God rather than *to* him because we know our own hearts all too well and barely know His heart at all.
You probably know the truth about yourself all too well and you think that you are unworthy to come to Him with those burdens and issues of life that seem to have no resolution
 - c. **We need to change our thinking about the trials or hard painful things we go through**

- No one is exempt – everyone faces junk in their lives

Habakkuk 3:19 says God is our strength and He will help us to "walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] and make spiritual progress upon [our] high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]!"

James 1:2-4 encourages us to "consider it wholly joyful...whenever you are enveloped in or encounter trials," because "the trial and proving of your faith" are what God works through to make us "fully developed...lacking in nothing."

- d. ***We need to change our thinking about the level of importance we put on what others think about us.***

- It's easy to let what others do and say affect us, and to feel like *"If you don't like me, my day is ruined."*

If we're more concerned with being a people-pleaser than a God-pleaser, we won't become what God created us to be and do what He's calling us to do (Gal. 1:10).

- e. ***We need to change our thinking about the Chaos that envelopes - is all around us***

- Shift happens – things are not static but is constantly changing

Because Satan is god of this world this is his handiwork

The Lord is saying to us this morning – *"these things are not my will, and I never bring chaos into your life, for I am not the god of confusion. I am a God of order. I am a God of blessing."*

So, the Lord says to you today - ***"Stand up," and say "no more to the enemy"***

Our Focus:

1. Focus on words and sometimes forget who I was meant to worship
2. Who are you singing to?
3. I realized I was singing, *"I love You,"* with my mouth but not with my heart.
4. He is the audience of One
5. I don't want to grieve the Holy Spirit
6. I want to do life with Him on His terms
7. I want to fulfill every inch of my destiny and see His kingdom come on earth just as it is in heaven.
8. ***John 6:66-68 "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him "You do not want to leave too, do you? Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.***
9. God has not left us orphans in the world, lonely children with paper swords fighting the dragons around us.
10. God is looking for those with whom He can do the impossible– what a pity that we plan only the things that we can do by ourselves
11. Let us together believe for the impossible and plan for the impossible
12. We stand on the brink of something tremendous, wondering what the future will hold knowing He is in the future
13. A life surrendered to Him will change the world forever.
14. Are you ready to take that step beyond what you know and understand?