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| 1“To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice” 10/29/31 Mark 12:28-44 INTRO: Many of you heard of John Wesley:  -famous evangelist and revivalistIf you would have met him seeing all things he was done for God, you would have thought he was saved, but he will tell he was not -double professor Greek and logic an Lincoln college, but not saved -Ordained priest Church of England, but not saved -Oxford “Holy Club” met for prayer, devotional exercises, study of Greek NT, but not saved -Hour each day for private prayer and reflection, weekly communion, and conquering sin, but not saved | 2-He fasted twice a week, visited prisons, and poor and sick, but not saved -Became missionary to American Indians in Georgia but not saved -Only until he met German Moravian Christians and “clearly convinced of unbelief, of the want of that faith wherby alone we are saved” -Encountered Mark 12:34 “You are not far from the kingdom of God” did he become saved -Striking is Wesley offered up sacrifices to God, but he wasn’t obedience to God, he was not saved MAIN POINT: Today you are going to see what obedience and love to God looks like and what it does not like. You are going to see that God desires obedience over sacrifice.  |
| 3REVIEW: So far seen religious leaders attack against Lord in form of questions to trap Him -Last week we saw first two: Pharisees and Herodians about taxes and Sadducees about resurrection Today, conclude testing with third and final question BODY: Third and final question comes from this Scribe Scribe = expert at the law = professional theologians First glance Scribe may be honest inquirerAfter all… “You are not far from the kingdom” However Matt. 22:34-45 Scribe actually “tests” Jesus too v. 35 | 4Matthew and Mark does use different Greek words to describe this scribe Mark = grammateus = grammarian Matthew = nomikos = of the law = nomos = law = anti “nomian” But point is = same person referenced Matt. further details Scribe = a pharisee With that context in mind Scribe asks “What commandment is the foremost of all” Foremost = centrality, grounds all other commandments Rabbis came up with 613 laws in Pentateuch and divided laws into 248 positive affirmations and 365 negative prohibitions Further divided into “heavy or light” laws  |
| 5Heavy = binding light = less binding Jesus replies vv. 29-31 (read) Responds with first and second greatest commandment 1. Deut. 6:4-5 = shema  -Pious Jews recite twice a day (morning and  evening)  -Especially devout would wear the Shema on  forehead and wrist in prayer through tiny leather  box called phylactery Deut. 6 not meant to be psychological breakdown of human but = entire being Thinking, strength, and affection = total devotion to God Obeying first naturally leads to second comm.  | 61 John says other way if you hate your brother you cannot claim to love God 1 John 4:20 *“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. And this commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.”*Harder to love someone you cannot see: God So if you hate your brother, but you claim to love God, you are a liar. If you hate your brother, you hate God as well Are you like that? Do you avoid going to church because you hate those hypocritical Christians. But you and God, you are alright, you have a good relationship with Jesus  |
| 7It is simple, if you hate your brother and you claim to love God, you are liar, period. Despite Scribe testing Jesus, he acknowledges what Jesus said was true Adds that first and second greatest comm. Is more than all “burnt offerings and sacrifices” Perhaps thinking of Ps. 51 *“For you do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.”*Or perhaps thinking of 1 Samuel 15 Saul commanded to rid the Amalekites and destroy property and burn it all But Saul disobeyed and kept king Agag alive  | 8Saul thought he could please God with sacrifices in His disobedience but he did not love God in reality with His entire being Partial obedience God wants complete obedience 1 Sam. 15:22 *“Behold to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.”*Saul’s disobedience: Rebellion = sin of divination Insubordination = wickedness and idolatry Shocking = God takes sin and disobedience seriously, he does not tolerate half-hearted obedience  |
| 9I could see why people would say scribe was different than Pharisees and Herodians and Sadducees with ill intent He wasn’t silent nor did he reject Christ like those who said Christ was operating on powers of Satan but sadly…tragic…He is almost saved. -Gets theology/Scripture right but his heart is stopped short of loving the Lord with his entire being At end of day, if he doesn’t love the Lord with his entire being, no better than King Saul who partially obeyed God Knowledge doesn’t equal obedience, you are not in kingdom Knowledge + love for God = 2 sides coin Knowledge = more love for God vice versa  | 10Going to church doesn’t automatically mean you are obedient You can even go to seminary and be a pastor and not be saved! What does James say in Jm. 2:19? *“You believe that God is one, you do well, but also the demons believe and they tremble!”*He was so close but yet so far I can’t make judgment whether he was saved or not  -Text simply doesn’t say  -We hope that he did choose Christ like  Nicodemus did As a whole Jesus speaks to Scribe as those who are not saved Jesus survived and overcame tests/snares and no one dared question Him any further  |
| 11Jesus now goes on the offensive notice to Scribes VV. 35-37 *“How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the son of David?”*Psalm 110 = most quoted psalm in NT Scribes believed Messiah = son of David but not God Himself They thought maybe he would be Abraham, Melchizedek or Judas Maccabeus (intertestamental Jewish leader) *“If David calls him Lord, how is he is son?”* Jesus asserting = Messiah is God 1ST LORD = Yahweh 2nd LORD = Adonai = Master/lord  | 12God the Father saying to God the Son = David’s Lord *“sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies beneath your feet”* = act of total submission and dominance of enemy Even more than that, Jesus is pointing to incarnation Only incarnation allows for Jesus to be “David’s son” but also David’s Lord God-Man = Yahweh himself Scribes saw Jesus as political king and conqueror to deliver Jews from Roman oppression. Messiah will indeed come to vanquish enemies, but first…He will have to sit on the right hand of Father’s throne and wait until time of millennial kingdom when Father makes Jesus’ enemies footstool for His feet  |
| 13Hebrews 10:12-13 makes that clear: *“but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until His enemies are put as a footstool for His feet.”*And to ascend = descend first = die on earth= rise from grave Not just Son of David but Son of God Again, He is the Son of God by way of being the Son of Man Many thought David was the Messiah or that maybe he would come again to be the Messiah but it’s not David but Christ the Lord as Acts 2:34-35 make clear Acts 2:34-35  | 14*For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says:**‘The Lord said to my Lord,“Sit at My right hand,Until I put Your enemies as a footstool for Your feet.”’**Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.”*Doctrine of Incarnation is central to Christian faith False teachers who denied Jesus came in the flesh 2 John 1:7 *“For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist.”*Why was this so important to defend? You can’t be Christian and deny incarnation  |
| 15If God did not become man, how will He die for humanity? God can’t die = 1 Timothy = immortal = John = God is spirit He needed to be man to die but also to represent humanity as Son of Man as Second Adam to obey the Father perfectly on our behalf so that He would impute His righteousness to your account No incarnation = no salvation Scribes did not love God with all their being because to do so, you have to believe that He is the Son of God TRANSITION: Now you will see why the Scribes don’t love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength and why they don’t love their neighbor as themselves. This is what it does not look like to love and obey God  | 16BODY:But Jesus continues His teaching “In His teaching” in v. 38 VV. 38-40 (read) These scribes like to walk around in “long robes” = power suits, most flashy, expensive suits They liked to be recognized in marketplaces and best seats in synagogues Usually if you host banquets you invite Scribes They loved attention! They loved the power! They loved the fame! And…They loved their money! They “devoured widow’s houses” Worse: Hypocrites because they gave long prayers to appear pious They oppressed widows and used God’s name in doing so  |
| 17That’s why *“these will receive greater condemnation”*There are very few things God hates more than hypocritical religious leaders who are wolves in sheep’s clothing TRANSITION: Now that we saw what it does not look like to love God, what does it look like to love God? BODY: Jesus sits down and observe how people are putting their money into treasury Treasury = 13 trumpet like shaped receptacles where larger end in front to prevent theft Metal coins w/ receptacle = loud sounds V. 42 = poor widow putting in two lepta = quadrans = 1/64th denarius = daily wage  | 18“poor” widow = extremely poor, impoverished Jesus teaches a lesson vv. 43-44 It’s easy to give when it’s convenient to give or when it doesn’t hurt your comfort When you can’t buy the thing you’ve always wanted…But yet, poor widow offered up everything she had to live on We see her tremendous faith displayed = she wasn’t required to give, OT = others were supposed to provide for her Widow = “God take all of me!” She had an other worldly trust in the LordPoint is not theology of giving/tithing although application maybe  |
| 19Point is = widow was prime example of first and second greatest commandments (she may have been conned by one of the Scribes) What do you need to know about this passage? What does it matter to you?You need to know partial obedience is not loving God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength Partial obedience can look like = going to church, reading your bible, praying, but your heart is not really in it. You don’t truly love God Full obedience means “God take all of me!” Full obedience means obeying even when it hurts you Partial obedience = same category as rejection God hates false, hypocritical worship Isaiah 1:10-17 (turn and read) | 20Judah was so far gone in its sin that God saw them as Sodom and Gomorrah This means God has every right to demand obedience from you because He created you!You don’t obey out of duty but because you love Him! 1 John 4:19 “We love because He first loved us!”Larry and Barb illustration -50th wedding anniversary in April -Larry reserves 6 months in advance and on their day, Larry goes up to Barb and says he reserved a fancy 5 star Michelin restaurantBarb: Oh Larry, you’re so thoughtful and sweet, thank you!Larry: Well it’s my duty Barb  |
| 21That’s the point! Unlike marriage God is not obligated to love you, because you can never earn His obligation to you Job 41:11God says, “*Who has given to Me that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is Mine.”*That’s what makes grace so amazing! God gives you grace because He gives graceGod gives you mercy because He gives mercy God gives you compassion because He gives compassion God gives you love because He gives love  | 22He loved you by sending His one and only Son Jesus Christ, Son of David, Son of God to bear wrath you deserved He bore the curse you deserved He rose again three days later defeating sin and death so that you will be enabled to love God with all your mind, soul, and strength and love your neighbor as yourself Jesus provided the supreme example of obedience to His Father out of love for Him Heb. 12:2*“who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*Jesus endured sufferings, torture, betrayal, floggings, and a brutal death because of His love for the Father and His love for you  |
| 23After all that Jesus done for you, how could you not give your all to Jesus?Romans 12:1-2 *“Therefore I exhort you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a sacrifice—living, holy, and pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may approve what the will of God is, that which is good and pleasing and perfect.”**“Spiritual service of worship”* = “logical” or “reasonable” service of worshipGod considers you insane and irrational to not respond in proper worship to Him To live without loving God is utter insanityHow could you not love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? To Obey Is Better Than Sacrifice, let’s pray  | 24 |