
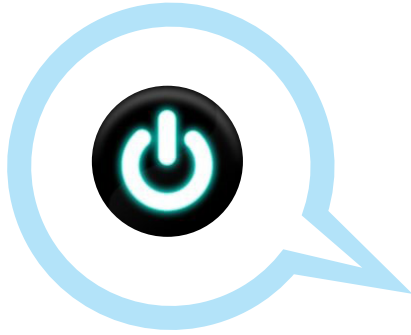


TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

A publication of  , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

2017.9.24



Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. —Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. —Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection

- What do you imagine might have been going on in Israel that prompted God to announce:
"I AM WHO I AM—that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with anyone. As the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of my glory."
What do you imagine God was **feeling** in that situation?

When you're *dissed*, in what ways is your response similar to the above? How is it different?

- Read Isaiah 42:1-9 in the New Living Translation. (Notice that the above quote is from v. 8.)
Do you recognize the identity of God's "Servant" (v. 1)? (See Matthew 12:14-21 & Luke 2:25-35.)

Explain how you see the **compassion of God** in Isaiah 42:1-4 and 5-7.

How should we understand v. 8 in light of the gentle, tender compassion described in v. 1-7?
In what way is salvation related to God's glory being recognized? (Also see Isaiah 42:16-17.)

- Did you know that in John 17, Jesus prayed for **you?! (See v. 20)** Let's focus on that prayer...

What does Jesus request for us in v. 21? Rephrase it in your own words.

In v. 22, what has Jesus given us? **When** will we get it? (See 2 Timothy 2:10b)

According to v. 23, what is a **present** result of that glory?

Scoffers say that heaven will be boring ("endless harp playing"). How do v. 24-26 present eternity?

Is that attractive to you? Why or why not?

Application-Challenge

- If you are not absolutely confident that you have received God's free, gracious forgiveness, trust Christ to save you today. Salvation is "**by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone**".
- Throughout this week, meditate on 2 Corinthians 5:15 & 9, asking yourself: (1) "In what common situation of my life would I be most embarrassed for Christ to be watching over my shoulder?" (2) "In this situation, who am I trying to please?", then (3) Ask God to help you make it your goal to please him instead.

Take One Step: What is one small, concrete step of obedience you will put into practice this week?



Sermon Summary

A month ago we began a six-part series which explores an event 500 years ago that recaptured the heart of Christianity. Over the centuries, Christianity had drifted into all kinds of error and abuses. The way of salvation had become hard to find because of false teaching. So a brave Catholic monk named Martin Luther nailed to the door of a church a list of 95 abuses he wished to debate with church leaders, and that sparked a “reboot” of Christianity. Those who led this “reboot” stood up for five key truths:

[1] Scripture alone—“Sola Scriptura”—is our source of truth.

[2] The only solution for man’s self-centeredness is the sinless God-man, Jesus Christ. In the Reformer’s words, “Solus Christus”: Christ Alone.

[3 & 4] “Sola Gratia” and “Sola Fide” mean “only grace” and “only faith”. The Bible clearly teaches that we’re saved “by grace through faith alone”.

Jesus came to forgive us for our self-centeredness. But **God himself** is the most self-centered person in the universe (Isaiah 42:8 & Habakkuk 2:14)! God **commands** us to praise him (Psalm 150). Is God a megalomaniac? No—he qualifies as a genuine mega! He **is** great. God spoke the universe into existence and always knows where each atom is at every moment. This brings us our fifth & final sola:

[5] “Soli Deo Gloria”—“to the glory of God alone”. We were never designed to be self-centered; we were created to be God-centered. This is what it means to “glorify” God. God is the most self-centered person in the universe—and paradoxically—being around this self-centered God is the only pathway to real joy for those who are his children by grace, through faith (Isaiah 42:8; Habakkuk 2:14).

As a result of being born again, as a result of having God as our Father, we love him. Oh, we don’t love him perfectly yet—**but we will**. But before we’d repented and believed, we hated God and the idea of answering to him. But now that we love God we **want** him to get the recognition he deserves (John 17:24), and this brings us great joy (1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 19:7; Matthew 13:44).

So, how do we increase our joy in life? We make “soli Deo gloria” our goal (2 Corinthians 5:15 & 9). Our hearts are **never** neutral. We are **either** for God **or** we are for ourselves. We must choose. What’s exciting about this is that **literally anything** becomes an opportunity for us to glorify God (1 Corinthians 10:31).

Talking To God About This Week’s Message

“Heavenly Father, today I want to be a ‘doer’ of the Word, and not just a ‘hearer’. Amen.”

Talking To Others About This Week’s Message

If a neighbor or friend at work asked you, “*What kind of stuff do they talk about at your church?*”, how would you summarize the most important elements of this week’s sermon and the key lessons you intend to apply to your life? Can you explain it in **plain language** anyone could understand?

Digging Deeper in your Daily Quiet Time

**Living “Soli Deo Gloria”—to the glory of God alone—must flow out of love for God (Matthew 22:36-38).
Drifting into indifference—and self-centeredness—is a risk for us all. This week let’s examine our love for God...**

Monday—Read Luke 7:36-39

- Three people are mentioned in today’s text. Who are they?
- Look up “Pharisee” at Webster1828.com and complete the following definition: “One of a sect among the Jews, whose religion _____ rites and ceremonies and of the traditions of the elders, and whose _____ led them to separate themselves as a sect, _____ as _____ than other Jews.”
- Now look up “sinner” and complete the definition: “One that has voluntarily _____; a moral agent who has voluntarily disobeyed _____ divine precept, or neglected _____ known duty.”
- Of the three people mentioned in today’s text, **how many qualified** as sinners? Why do you think that?
- Of the three people mentioned in today’s text, **how many thought of themselves** as sinners? Why do you think that?
- According to v. 39, **to whom** did the Pharisee express his thoughts?

Tuesday—Read Luke 18:9-14

- According to v. 9, how were the people described to whom Jesus told this parable? (Write out the **two** phrases.)
- According to v. 10, what two people were in Jesus’ little story?
- The Greek text of v. 11 says: “*The Pharisee, having stood, toward himself was praying, ‘God...’*”. Compare this with your observation from Luke 7:39 yesterday. What does this suggest to you?
- Rephrase the content of the Pharisee’s “prayer” found in v. 11b-12. How many times does he mention God? Himself?
- What do you think **he** thought about his “prayer”? What do you think **God** thought about his “prayer”?
- Now describe and rephrase the tax collector’s prayer found in v. 13.
- **In his own estimation, how good** was the Pharisee? **By his own admission, how good** was the tax collector?
- **How good** are you? Support your answer biblically. (See Romans 3:10-18, 23 if you need help.)
- According to v. 14a, who did Jesus say would make it to heaven?

Wednesday—Read Luke 7:36-50

- Compare and contrast Simon the Pharisee with the Pharisee from Jesus’ parable you read yesterday (Luke 18:9-12).
- Compare and contrast the “sinful woman” with the tax collector from Jesus’ parable you read yesterday (Luke 18:13).
- With which one do you identify more—the Pharisee or the “sinners”? Why? In what ways?
- According to v. 41-43, what is the relationship between love and forgiveness?
According to v. 44-47, on the graph to the right, place an “S” for Simon and a “W” for the woman.
Write “ME” for where you are on the graph. Are you OK with what you see?
- If you wished to move higher on the “love for God” axis, what must you do?
- What did Jesus say about this woman in v. 48? What did he say about her in v. 50?
Explain the relationship between faith, forgiveness, and loving God. What produces what?



Thursday—Read Luke 7:36-50

- Jesus acknowledges that this woman’s sin were “many” (v. 47). And, as a result, she “loved much” (v. 47b). Simon clearly “loved little” (v. 44-46)—is Jesus acknowledging that Simon’s sins were “little” (see v. 47c)? Explain.
- Are some people **actually** more holy in God’s eyes? Justify your answer biblically. (James 2:10 is helpful.)
- Clearly Simon the Pharisee **thought** he was more holy than this woman (just as the Pharisee in Luke 18:10-14 thought himself more holy than the IRS man). From Luke 18:11-12, list the sorts of things that Pharisees did and did not do. If you knew someone with **that** lifestyle, would you be impressed with their piety? (Be honest!)
- Was Jesus impressed with their piety (see Luke 18:14)?
- Relate these thoughts to Matthew 5:3-10.
- Relate Matthew 5:20 to Luke 18:14. So, **who** enters the kingdom of heaven: those with **more righteous deeds** than those described in Luke 18:11-12 or those who, regardless of their sin, are **forgiven**?

Friday—Read Revelation 2:1-7

- List all of the words used to catalogue the Ephesian church’s positive qualities and deeds (v. 2-3, 6). Which of those qualities and deeds are evident in **your** life? How does God evaluate those deeds and qualities?
- As admirable as those qualities and deeds are, **are they sufficient to ensure** the Ephesian church’s **survival** (v. 5b)? What does that suggest to you about the importance of love?
- Write down all verses can you think of which reveal how important love is to God. Did you come up with some which talk about “the greatest commandment”, or which compare love to “speaking with the tongues of men and angels”, or one where Jesus says “God so loved the world that...” or where it says that “God demonstrates his love toward us...”? Romans 13:8 talks about what we owe each other. Did you think of 1 John 3:1? Make a list of all the verses which teach the centrality of love.
- Pray now and ask God to help you love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.

Saturday—Read 1 John 3:1-3, 10-18.

- Mark the **eight** times the word “love” appears in these verses.
Make a list of all the things you learn about love from this passage.
- Read 1 John 4:7—5:4. Mark the **thirty-two** times the word “love” appears in these verses.
Make a list of all the things you learn about love from this passage.