

SERMON

Grace Street Fellowship, Dr. Jim Burgin, pastor

Sunday, October 7th, 2018

Sermon Series: "Heartbeat"

Sermon # 6 – **The Inside-Out Life**– Matthew 28: 19-20; Acts 1: 6-8; John 4

OPENING – I grew up in South Korea, landing there on August 7th, 1966, the day I turned 6 years old. Our parents had included my brother and me in the process of going to South Korea. They told us we would be going there to tell the Korean people about Jesus. When we got there, both of my parents enrolled in language school, a two-year journey. Often, we would go downtown to see the sights of Seoul – the markets, the crowds, and it was so much fun. One afternoon, I stopped to ask my mom, "Why did we come to Korea?" To tell people about Jesus," was the answer. "Well, all these people have passed us by, and you haven't said anything yet!" It was 52 years ago, so I only remember the story as it has been told, but it had quite an impact on my mom. The truth was – she had forgotten why they were there. They had packed up, left family, friends, travelled all the way around the world to do one thing, and now that they were there, they had forgotten.

A second story from my childhood regards my constant desire to tell people about Jesus. At 8 years of age, I worked herding and milking cows on a Presbyterian cow farm. I was milking a cow one day, and practicing my routines about sharing Christ to myself, but outloud too, and the cow attempted to kick me. Cows kick sideways, which I did not know. The cow's foot hit the metal railing separating the stalls. It just turned its head to look at me with an ugly look. Sometimes, I think that is how we think people will react when we attempt to witness to them, so we do not do it.

TEXT

Matthew 28:19-20 New International Version (NIV) ¹⁹ *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,* ²⁰ *and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Acts 1: 6-8 ⁶*Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"* ⁷ *He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

OUR HEARTBEAT

1. When you speak of someone's heartbeat, you mean the essence of someone. Heartbeat refers to someone's core operating principles. If someone you know well acts out in some way, you can discern why they acted that way, because you know their heartbeat. If you know someone well, then you can differentiate between inappropriate/bad/out of character behavior in a moment. I accept that they acted that way, but that is not their" heartbeat." Do you know their story?

2. A Heartbeat has measurements, doesn't it? You can take someone's pulse – Whew, that heartbeat is too fast, or too slow. You can measure blood pressure. Nurses can look at someone's skin color, and know if something is right or wrong.
 - a. In the same way, you can measure the heartbeat of a church body, and discover if the church is healthy, or anemic.
 - b. We are providing you a way to assess your own spiritual health. What is the core? Does it match up to what you are hearing from God's Word in these messages? In the same way that you can check your physical health in certain ways (blood pressure, thermometer, taking your pulse), you can also take your spiritual temperature. So, what are the signs?
3. What do we need to look for?
 - a. Are we a worshipping church?
 - i. Not on Sunday only, but daily.
 - ii. Answers the question "Who is on the throne?"
 - iii. Is worship central to the life of Grace Street? You?
 - b. Is Jesus the love of our life? Is he your Savior, Lord, Friend?
 - c. Does the Bible play a central role in your life? In the life of our church?
 - i. Is the Sunday school teacher teaching from the Bible? Is the preacher preaching from popular culture, or pop-psychology, or are you being fed from God's word?
 - ii. Where are you with your journey in the Word? Are your reading, meditating, open to its influence?
 - d. Is Grace our main course, or a side dish, or absent all together? Is it our way of life. Without Grace, relationship becomes religion, and church/spiritual life becomes a competition, a means of comparing, putting ourselves above/ putting others down. We are "Grace Street Fellowship." An Avenue of Grace. Do we welcome sinners here? Do we shoot our wounded?
 - e. Are we a growing church? Numerical growth is good and important. We should be reaching people, but I am asking about you personally. We do not want to be a "mile wide and an inch deep." Have you discovered your spiritual gift? Are you using it in the church?
 - f. Are we a reaching Church? Inside Out. A Church, which does not measure itself by "nickels and noses." Alternatively, buildings, budgets, baptisms. Bad image – socks which are inside out. Help me with a better one. A church, which exists to share God's love – to extend God's kingdom. This is the heart of God – Matthew 28 – As you are going into the entire world, make disciples. The last thing on Jesus heart and mind before he ascended, and it is repeated in Mark, Luke, John, and Acts. 1:8.
 - g. Today, I want us to review the beautiful story from John 4.

THE CONTEXT

1. The Journey to Samaria –

- a. Potential conflict with Pharisees. Who is baptizing more? John the Baptist or Jesus. Jesus heads to Galilee
- b. In addition, verse 4 says, “He had to go through Samaria.” King James says, “He must needs go.” Verb here means, “It was absolutely necessary” that he go. Why? Judea was to the South. Galilee was to the North, and Samaria was in the middle. Geographically, the shortest route to Galilee was through Samaria, but why emphasize it? It would be like saying – to get to the restroom down the hall, you have to go down the hall. It is absolutely necessary. What?
- c. The reason? A self-respecting Jew never went through Samaria. They went around. During the time of Israel’s exile, this group of people intermarried, so they were not pure Jews. They were despised and rejected, considered half-breeds.
- d. Jesus arrives in Samaria around noon, a hot part of the day in a hot country. He sends the disciples to the store in a nearby town, and a woman arrives.

2. A Conversation about water?

- a. Jesus says, “Can you draw me a drink from the well? She had a bucket, and he did not.
- b. She says, “Are you talking to me?” Jews did not talk to Samaritans. Men did not talk with women. Rabbis did not speak with sinners and/or sufferers (since most considered it God’s punishment for sin.).
- c. I am not who you think I am, Jesus tells her. If you knew whom you were talking to, you would ask him for living water. She says, “Are you greater than our Father Jacob who made this well?” He says – I will provide you with “living water.” Drink this water, and you will never be thirsty again, and the water will become a fountain of life within you, which flows over to everyone. Sir, she says, “Give me this water, so that I won’t be thirsty again, and so that I won’t have to keep coming to this well.”

3. Hearts and Husbands –

- a. Jesus said; go call your husband to drink this water. She said, “I’m not married. He said, “You are right.” You have had five husbands, and the man you are living with now is not your husband. Thank you for being truthful.
- b. Embarrassed, she says, “I perceive you are a prophet.” My ancestors worshipped at this mountain, but the Jews say it has to be in Jerusalem. Jesus said a day will come when you worship from the heart and not in a location, and true worshippers
- c. I know that the Messiah is coming. “I am he.”
- d. Disciples come in somewhat noisily. What is he doing with a woman? However, no one wanted to ask him the question.
- e. The woman leaves her water jar there and goes to her town. Come see a man who told me everything I ever did.

4. Food –

- a. Disciples urge Jesus to eat, and he tells them he has a food, which you know nothing about. He explains that it is to do the will of his father. What is the Father's will?
- b. The Harvest is plentiful, and the fields are white. Ask the Lord of the Harvest to send workers. Do not say four more months, and then harvest. It is urgent now. Open your eyes and look, please. The reaper is already gathering in the harvest for eternal life.
- c. Do not worry about carrying the whole load. Do your part. Some will reap what others have sewn.
- d. Jesus stays two more days and many Samaritans came to Christ.
- e. They said, we no longer believe, because of what the woman said, but because we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.

WHAT ARE THE LESSONS?1. Are you in tune with the Father's will?

- a. That is why Jesus had to go through Samaria. Illustration of a time when Clark was sick, and it was urgent, and the doctor did not call us back. It was urgent.
- b. Sharing our faith is critically important, because it is the Father's will. It is a matter of eternity, and your reward will be great when you do.
- c. Did you know that being in the Father's will is a blessing? Food for the soul. It will fill you up.
- d. People are not interruptions.

2. Do you know his love is for everyone? No exclusive groups; would the disciples have witnessed to this woman? Jesus loved Matthew & Zacheus, tax collectors. Jesus loved the Gadarene demoniac, and the man born blind. Jesus loved the woman in John 8 who had committed adultery and was being shamed by the religious leaders.

In A Friendship Like No Other: Experiencing God's Amazing Embrace, A surprising way forward William Barry offers this unusual advice: talk with God about the news.

When you see coverage of the disaster in Indonesia, don't just pray for those affected by this tragedy—ask God how he feels about them. Then ask him for his heart for those he loves. Do the same with coverage of the Supreme Court process—ask your Father how he feels about those with whom you disagree, then ask for his heart for those he loves.

We don't have to compromise our beliefs to love our enemies. In fact, the urgency of such love is one of our most essential beliefs (Matthew 5:43-47).

Barry retells this medieval parable: There is a party in heaven after the Egyptian army has been destroyed and the Jewish nation saved at the Red Sea. The heavenly host notices that God is not joining the party but weeping.

They ask, "Why are you sad? Your people have been saved. The Egyptians have been destroyed." In addition, God says, "The Egyptians are also my people."

Who are your Egyptians today?

3. Does your life seal your lips?
4. Will you love authentically? Jesus loved this woman at her point of need. Affirmed her.
5. Will you stay on task? Jesus did not get off task when she tried to distract her.
6. Will you point people to Jesus? Tell your story?
7. Will you entrust this to the Lord. You may reap. You may sew. All you have to do is to be faithful.

CONCLUSION

1. There was a young boy growing up in another land who attended a summer revival service when he was on vacation with his family. A preacher had come from a foreign land to share Christ in the revival service, and that young boy accepted Christ.
2. That young boy was me. The preacher was from one of the Carolinas, and he had travelled to South Korea for some reason not known to me, but he preached the gospel, and I ran up to the altar that day and professed Christ publically. I wish I knew his name. Some day I want to thank him for his faithfulness. He doesn't know anything about me, or my salvation, or that I grew up to be a minister. But he was faithful, and it made all the difference in my life.

INVITATION