

Pure Milk

Father's Day

Video/see notes

Shooting in South Carolina

21 yr old white man- Emanuel African Methodist

Episcopal Church- sat in Bible study- 1 hr.

Stood up- killed the pastor plus 8 other people.

Pastor Tony's Challenge

Set side time at home (1/2hr) during the week to experience the presence of God.

Prayer Element ???

Psalm 119 Challenge

Read Ps 119- increase passion for God/His Word.

Psa 119 focuses on- beauty/necessity of God's-

Word, statutes, decrees, instructions- mankind.

As a culture- in danger- relying on feelings ...

>men identifying as women because they feel like a woman

>white woman identifying as a black woman because she feels black

>transabled people- identify w/amputees and want- cut off a limb to feel complete

We are living in a culture that allows feelings to trump truth and reality- end up w/absurdities.

Feelings are very legitimate and an important part of what it means to be human, but either your feelings will reshape truth or you will allow truth to reshape your feelings. John Stonestreet

In a society increasingly built on the shifting sand of feelings we need the anchor of God's Word.

(Read some examples of posts)

Living Stones

Build on the theme of Psalm 119 ...

1 Peter 2:1–2

1Therefore, putting aside all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander,

2like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

In comparison to God- we are all babes.

Pure milk- not elementary truth vs advanced truth

1 Cor 3:2 I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able,

Talking about- simplicity/necessity of the Gospel message against the messages of this world.

Jam 3:15 This wisdom is not that which comes down from above, but is earthly, natural, demonic.

Jam 3:17 But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, without hypocrisy.

Peter is contrasting ... malice, deceit, hypocrisy of this world vs the pure milk of God's Word.

Watching our 6mo old grandson- he longs for milk- it is his source of life. Nobody had to teach him he needed milk. To grow he must drink milk or he will die. He has tasted of the goodness of the milk and knows he cannot live without it. He longs for it/demands it.

Going on in 1 Peter 2 ...

1 Pet 2:2–3

²like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,

³if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. (Psa 34:8)

If we have tasted of the kindness of God we will long for the pure milk of His Word.

Eph 4:15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

Exposure to truth causes spiritual growth.

My concern for many- not just the lack of spiritual growth but- the lack of desire ...

>for spiritual growth and

>to do anything that would bring growth

1 Pet 2:4 And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,

Jesus is the Living Stone- we are not coming to an idol carved out of wood that cannot talk.

Jn 5:39 “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;

We read the Word not just to gain information or knowledge, but to experience relationship.

Any study of the Bible that does not lead to an encounter with God misses the mark.

We serve a life giving God- we need His life!

1 Pet 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

We are living stones being built- spiritual house.
I become a living stone through a personal encounter w/God.

But once I have become a living stone I am now part of a larger spiritual house.

I will not grow properly if I do not acknowledge my part/take my place in that larger spiritual house

It is just like our grandson- at this point he is totally dependent on other members of his house to take care of him. As he grows he must also recognize that he is part of a household and take his proper place in that house or his growth will not be normal.

Mentioned last week- Paul speaks of our role in the spiritual house in which God has placed us

1 Cor 14:26 What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

As living stones, coming to the Living Stone, we are being assembled into a spiritual house.

And there is the expectation- when we assemble that each one will bring something to the table.

Parable of the Ten Virgins

Look at two stories- parable of- ten virgins, talents

Mat 25.1-13 (read)

In some way the oil represents the HS

My concern is not what happens to those who did not have oil- what their eternal fate might be.

My concern is what are- benefits of being wise.

Three truths I would take away ...

- >the oil/HS- not just- source of new spiritual life, it is- secret to enduring spiritual life
- >it is possessing- oil that makes- wise ready
- >foolish could not fix the consequences of their lack of attentiveness to their relationship w/God at the last moment

I want to daily to be aware of ...

- >my relationship w/God (Living Stone)
- >my part in the spiritual house where God has placed me
- >how I can cultivate a longing for God/His Word in my heart- taste God's kindness.

Parable of the Talents

Mat 25.14-23 (read)

The Lord's response makes no distinction between a five vs two talent person.

What God gives to each individual may be different, but He requires the same faithfulness from everyone.

Perhaps the five vs two talents is a measure of our desire to receive more from God?

Stop comparing ourselves w/others- are we ...

- >faithful w/what God has given us?
- >desiring a greater walk with God?
- >willing to put forth effort to make it happen?

Mat 25.24-29 (read)

This slave knew what his master expected but ignored it- he did not make use of what he had been given by the master.

We have all been given a measure of faith and spiritual gifts to use to bless others.

Each slave in this parable received something from the master w/expectation he would use it.

Rom 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

We each have possess the life giving HS within us and have been given a measure of faith.

Unfaithfulness with what we have been given results in loss, while faithfulness results in greater blessing and reward.

Conclusion

There is much at stake in our walk w/God and we are rapidly coming to a place as a nation where that faith may be tested.

When testing comes, will we be able to stand?

Will we be faithful to use what God has given us to build His Kingdom/bless others?

Paul warns Timothy ...

1 Tim 1:18-19

¹⁸This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight,

**¹⁹keeping faith and a good conscience,
which some have rejected and suffered
shipwreck in regard to their faith.**

To avoid becoming shipwrecked in your faith-
pursue God, read His Word, pray, worship.

If you sit here today/profess to know Christ then-

>you are a living stone

>you are being built together w/other living
stones into a spiritual house

>God wants to inhabit that house w/His
presence

>your part is essential for that to happen

Everyone is significant in the eyes of God.

Challenge

Assess what God has given you- measure of
faith, spiritual gifting, call of God.

Then ask God how to be faithful to steward well
what He has given you.

Then ask God to show you what your part is in
the bigger spiritual house.