

Welcome to Kev's on-line eGroup

The e-Glue that helps with the glitter

Here Comes Church:

- Interested in serving at Elevation Church: See: www.elevationchurch.cc
- Please consider joining an eGroup (small group) so you don't have to walk this walk alone – See www.elevationchurch.cc. When you are isolated, you are an easy target for the enemy – and you don't have the benefit of friends to support you. Embrace the power of numbers.
- Old Church Basement – just released – quote: “From Going back to the place where we discovered worship for the first time – not a physical place - accessing our first love (within ourselves) – bringing you back to a pure place – absent of self-consciences.” “Our prayer is that his album pierces through the darkness and creates light in people's lives.”
- YTHX 2021 – virtual event – July 11 to 18.
- Love Week: July 24 to 31 – sign ups start on June 1, 2021 – See: www.elevationoutreach.org.

Mark 2: 23 to 28: Jesus Questioned About Fasting - 18 Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting. Some people came and asked Jesus, "How is it that John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees are fasting, but yours are not?" 19 Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? They cannot, so long as they have him with them. 20 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them, and on that day they will fast. 21 "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. 22 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath - 23 One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and as his disciples walked along, they began to pick some heads of grain. 24 The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" 25 He answered, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need? 26 In the days of Abiathar the high priest, he entered the house of God and ate the consecrated bread, which is lawful only for priests to eat. And he also gave some to his companions." 27 Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. 28 So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Mark 3: 1 to 6: Jesus Heals on the Sabbath - 3 Another time Jesus went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. 2 Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. 3 Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." 4 Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. 5 He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. 6 Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.

Class Quiz Question: How many miracles did Jesus perform on the Sabbath?

As quoted by www.faithfollower.com published on 9/14/2016:

“Jesus performed MANY miracles during his time on Earth. But, on the Sabbath, he only performed 7.

So, anytime someone did work on the Sabbath, the Jews looked down on the person and they were taken to the Pharisees to be punished.

Healing, carrying your bed, and walking more than a Sabbath's day journey was forbidden. A Sabbath's day journey equaled to 3,000 feet from your dwelling place.

1. Jesus Heals Simon Peter's Mother-in-Law (Read: Mark 1:29-31)
2. Jesus heals a man with a withered hand (Read: Mark 3:1-6)
3. Jesus heals a man born blind (Read: John 9:1-16) - This is the ONLY miracle in which the person Jesus healed, was born with the disease.
4. Jesus heals a crippled woman (Read: Luke 13:10-17) - The woman had a disabled spirit for 18 years
5. Jesus heals a man with Dropsy (Read: Luke 14:1-6) - Dropsy = a form of edema, where excess fluid comes to various parts of the body.
6. Jesus drives out an evil spirit (Read: Mark 1:21-28)
7. Jesus heals a lame man by the pool of Bethesda (Read: John 5:1-18)”

Opening prayer and comments by Pastor Furtick on 4/5/2021: “Happy Easter everybody – We praise you Lord – King of kings – Lord of lords – We lift you high – We recognize that because you live, we live tomorrow – and I declare in the name of Jesus the same power that raised Christ from the dead is operative in this moment – so Lord let this power flow – let this mind set flow – let these miracles flow – we thank you God that we are in the middle of something that we will only understand on the other side – However we have a point of reference – because our faith rests in an empty tomb – and we do not have to have a lot of evidence to have a lot of faith – Lord we thank you that not only do we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ as an accomplished fact – So is our forgiveness – So is our healing – So is our joy – So is our peace – all of these things we thank you for – we thank you in advance for all of the things that you do in our lives – in Jesus’ name we pray amen.”

Closing prayer by Pastor Madu on 6/6/2021: Where does restoration start? It starts in your heart – For some of you, it's been a difficult season to believe again – it's been a difficult season to dream again – instead of complaining about what's in your hand know that God wants to restore your heart – God wants to give you a new heart so that you can believe again – so that you can hope again – so that you can trust again – We have all been through some difficult things in the last year – but can we stretch our heart in order to believe again – or will we walk away just like the Pharisees did and miss the miracle that was right in front of us? Father I'm asking you today to restore hearts – God give us new hearts – hearts that believe again and hearts that trust again – Jesus restore our hearts – Lord I know that if you restore our hearts, healing will come to our hands – Lord if you restore what is on the inside, it will restore everything on the outside – This is what you do Jesus – You heal us from the inside out – bring life back in our hearts – to trust and believe again – heal us from the inside out. The enemy has lied to us and making us think that the issue is our identity – Lord you're finished work on the cross makes everything new – and we can always come home – In Jesus name, Amen.

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Pastor: Pastor Madu

Sermon Title: "Where Does Restoration Start"

Sunday, June 6, 2021

- See Mark 2: 23 to 28 and Mark 3: 1 to 6.
- "It's a horrible way to live when all you do is look at microscopes (examining others) and never look at the mirror (self-reflection)."
- "Jesus had an uncanny ability to help the Pharisees see themselves – and they hated Jesus for it – this is what made them angry and mad."
- "The root problem with the Pharisees is they were jealous of Jesus – when you are affective at what God called you to do, people will be jealous – and this may cause you to shrink back on the calling of your life because of all of the resistance from others – I'm here to tell you that we need to walk in the totality of what God called you to - "Learn to live with the criticism – get some tough skin soft heart – the only people that don't get criticized are the people that don't say anything or do anything. One writer says that jealousy is the trophy that mediocrity gives to excellence."
- "Some of us need to change our perspective on God – because you think God is in heaven waiting to hit you upside the head if you break a rule – Jesus broke rules to restore you."
- "See John 5 - Our God is the type of God that can restore the years that the enemy took from us – because our God brings restoration – Our God can even restore the years that we wasted - our God is the only God can redeem time."
- "The Greek translation of scripture tells us the man's hand was injured as the result of an unfortunate circumstance – And the Pharisees had good intentions by creating rules and regulations – however their hearts had become so withered, they became hardened – they lost all compassion – no wonder Jesus looked at the Pharisees first – he wanted to perform two miracles that day – to restore the man's withered hand and restore the hardened hearts of the Pharisees."
- "Religion is always that which takes something simple and makes it complicated – by adding rules and by adding regulations – Now look at what Grace does – Grace take something complex and makes it simple."
- "Where does restoration start? It starts in your heart – For some of you, it's been a difficult season to believe again – it's been a difficult season to dream again – instead of complaining about what's in your hand know that God wants to restore your heart – God wants to give you a new heart so that you can believe again – so that you can hope again – so that you can trust again."

Pastor Madu shared the following: We all have blind spots that makes it difficult to understand fully how we are perceived. Ask people who love this question – what is it like to be on the other side of me? If we don't ask this question, we never really get to see ourselves – how do you know that you're a great husband or a great wife? You've never been married to yourself – How do you know you're a great parent? You have never parented yourself – when we ask God to restore ourselves - the first thing we need to ask are used to see what we can't see.

Pastor Madu shared the following: We all have blind spots that makes it difficult to understand fully how we are perceived. Ask people who love this question – what is it like to be on the other side of me? If we don't ask this question, we never really get to see ourselves – how do you know that you're a great husband or a great wife? You've never been married to yourself – How do you know you're a great parent? You have never parented yourself – when we ask God to restore ourselves - the first thing we need to ask are used to see what we can't see.

- We should not spend our entire lives for us focus on the faults of people around us but not spending any time in self-reflection trying to understand what we can't see – God help me see me and fix the things that are wrong with me.
- Don't live a life like the Pharisee (I See what you need to fix) – they were very good at identifying the faults of others but could not see the blindspot's in their own lives. The Pharisees were very good at microscope viewing – examining all of the faults of others – but they were horrible at mirrors – and could never see their own faults.

Pastor Madu shared the following: “The root problem with the Pharisees is they were jealous of Jesus – when you are effective at what God called you to do, people will be jealous – and this may cause you to shrink back on the calling of your life because of all of the resistance from others – I’m here to tell you that we need to walk in the totality of what God called you to be – when you doing what God called you to do, people will hate you – learn to live with the criticism – get some tough skin and a soft heart – the only people that don’t get criticized are the people that don’t say anything or do anything. One writer says that jealousy is the trophy that mediocrity gives to excellence.”

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt
Citizenship in a Republic;
Speech Delivered at Sorbonne, Paris
April 23, 1910

Mathew Henry commentary on the Sabbath discussion in Mark 2:

“Many of our mistakes would be rectified, and our unjust censures of others corrected, if we would but recollect what we have read in the scripture; appeals to that are most convincing. Ritual observances must give way to moral obligations; and that may be done in a case of necessity, which otherwise may not be done.”

Pastor Madu said this:

“Our God is the type of God that can restore the years that the enemy took from us – because our God brings restoration – Our God can even restore the years that we wasted - our God is the only God can redeem time.”

Pastor Madu said this:

“We have to be careful during periods of suffering – because the enemy will want us to think that our suffering is the result of something we did – where we say the things like “the reason I am facing this is because I did that” – your suffering is not always the result of your personal sin – this is not true all of the time.

Here is the key point – regardless of what we are going through – God will steer us to glory (Kev note: to achieve the most loving outcome) – when it all is all said and done, God is going to get the glory out of it.

“The Shack by William Young: “I (God) am not evil. You (humans) are the ones who embrace fear and pain and power and rights so readily in your relationships. But your choices are also not stronger than my purposes, and I will use every choice you make for the ultimate good and the most loving outcome. . . . Broken humans center their lives around things that seem good to them, but that will neither fill them nor free them. Humans are addicted to power, or the illusion of security that power offers. When a disaster happens, those same people will turn against false powers they trusted. In their disappointment, they either become softened toward me or they become bolder in their independence. If you could only see how all this ends and what we will achieve without the violation of the human will – then you would understand. One day you will.”

Pastor Madu said: "Every miracle is a parable – the specific way you learn to heal is teaching you something – what does Jesus do? He tells the man to stand up and look at the Pharisees – The Pharisees came to trap Jesus and now Jesus flips the script and traps them – is it legal to save a life during the Sabbath? It is a simple question and demands a simple answer – religion is always that which takes something simple and makes it complicated – by adding rules and by adding regulations – Now look at what Grace does – Grace take something complex and makes it simple – Jesus asks the Pharisees a simple question because he is the personification of grace – where he simplifies ten commandments down to two – see: Mark 12:30-31: Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Holly Furtick: "While in survival mode, our instinct is to hoard – We get scared of the empty spaces - Pouring out is scary when you are fighting for your life – God tells us to keep pouring – Pour with a purpose and realize the grace of God. Don't wait to feel full before you let God pour through you – And then live on what is left." - - **Question: #1 What jars had you filled in a prior season that are benefiting you now? #2: What jars are you filling now so that you thrive in a future season?**



Charles Spurgeon Moment #1: "EVENING BE ZEALOUS. REVELATION 3:19 - If you want to see souls converted, if you want to hear the cry that "the kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord," If you want to place crowns upon the head of the Savior and see His throne lifted high, then be filled with zeal. For under God, the way the world will be converted is by the zeal of the church. Every element of grace will do its work, but zeal will be first; prudence, knowledge, patience, and courage will follow in their places, but zeal must lead the charge. It is not the extent of your knowledge, though that is useful, it is not the extent of your talent, though that is not to be despised, it is your zeal that will do great exploits. This zeal is the fruit of the Holy Spirit: It draws its vital force from the continued operations of the Holy Spirit in the soul. If our inner life dwindles, if our heart beats slowly before God, we will not know zeal; but if everything inside is strong and vigorous, then we cannot but feel a loving urgency to see Christ's kingdom come, and His will done on earth, even as it is in heaven. A deep sense of gratitude will nourish Christian zeal. When we reflect on the miry pit from which we were lifted, we find plenty of reason for spending ourselves for God. And zeal is also stimulated by the thought of the eternal future. It looks with tearful eyes down to the flames of hell, and it cannot sleep: It looks up with anxious gaze to the glories of heaven, and it cannot stay still. It feels that time is short compared with the work to be done, and therefore it devotes all that it has to the cause of its Lord. And it is continually strengthened by remembering Christ's example. He was clothed with zeal as with a cloak. How swift the chariot-wheels of duty went with Him! He never loitered on the way. Let us prove that we are His disciples by displaying the same spirit of zeal."

Charles Spurgeon Moment #2: “ANYONE WHO DOES NOT LOVE DOES NOT KNOW GOD. 1 JOHN 4:8 - The distinguishing mark of a Christian is his confidence in Christ’s love for him and in the offering of his love to Christ. First, faith sets her seal upon the man by enabling the soul to say with the apostle, “Christ loved me and gave himself for me.” Then love gives the countersign and stamps upon the heart gratitude and love to Jesus in return. “We love because he first loved us.” In those grand old ages, which are the heroic period of the Christian religion, this double mark was clearly seen in all believers in Jesus; they were men who knew the love of Christ and rested upon it as a man leans upon a staff whose trustiness he has proved. The love that they felt toward the Lord was not a quiet emotion that they hid within themselves in the secret place of their souls and that they only spoke about in private or when they met on the first day of the week and sang hymns in honor of Christ Jesus the crucified; it was a passion with them of such a vehement and all-consuming energy that it was visible in all their actions, evident in their conversation, and seen in their eyes, even in their casual glances. Love for Jesus was a flame that fed upon the core and heart of their being and therefore by its own force burned its way into their demeanor and shone there. Zeal for the glory of King Jesus was the seal and mark of all genuine Christians. Because of their dependence upon Christ’s love they dared much, and because of their love for Christ they did much, and it is the same now. The children of God are ruled in their inmost powers by love. The love of Christ constrains them; they rejoice that divine love is set upon them, they feel it shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit, who is given to them, and then by force of gratitude they love the Savior with a pure and fervent heart. My reader, do you love Him? Before you sleep, give an honest answer to this weighty question!”

1 Galatians 2:20 2 1 John 4:19.

Pastor Furtick said: “We tend to feel unworthy relative to the standard set by Jesus – and the enemy loves to use condemnation to prevent you from receiving the grace that you need to change.”

Kev' question: Why shouldn't this be empowering – Is this liberating to you? Have a good navigational beacon:

“Life and Leadership at the Highest” A quote from an unknown author and requoted by Pastor Tim Keller in his sermon “This is Jesus” part 4 “Two Grieving Sisters Encounter Jesus” at Oxford University in 2016: “The accounts of Him in the New Testament speak for themselves – He combines qualities that no one has ever seen – despite his incredible claims, we never see him pompous, offended, or standing on his own dignity. Despite being absolutely approachable to the weakest and most broken people, he is completely fearless before the powerful and the corrupt. Despite being weary and lonely, we find him remarkably human - filled with joy, fear, love, and anger. Yet, we never see him Moody. We never see him being inconsistent. We never see Him strong when He should be tender and we never see Him tender when He should be strong. Most interesting of all – Of all his encounters with people - we are continuously surprised – shocking us - but never disappointing us – it is difficult for us to imagine words that Jesus ought to have said or deeds that he ought to have done. Nothing he has done ever falls short - in fact He is always surprising us - because He is incomparably better than what we could imagine for ourselves. Why? These are the surprises of perfection – He has tenderness without weakness – He has strength without harshness – humility without the slightest lack of confidence – unhesitating authority without the slightest sense of self-absorption – Holy and unbending convictions without the slightest lack of approachability – power without insensitivity – passion without prejudice – there is never a false step – there's never a jarring no – this is life at the highest.”

Charles Surgeon Moment (CSM):

“If you cannot speak with trumpet tongue, use the still small voice. If the pulpit must not be your tribune, if the press may not carry on its wings your words, yet say with Peter and John, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you.”² By the well talk to the Samaritan woman, if you cannot preach a sermon on the mountain; utter the praises of Jesus in the house, if not in the temple; in the field, if not in the public square; in your own household, if you cannot in the great family of man. From the hidden springs within, let sweetly flowing streams of testimony flow Hide not your talent; trade with it, and you shall bring in good interest to your Lord and Master. To speak for God will be refreshing to ourselves, cheering to saints, useful to sinners, and honoring to the Savior.”

Kev's guys on-line eGroup study notes

Here's a poem that Pastor Steven Furtick wrote a few months ago about Lazarus – that formed the Song – “Welcome Resurrection”

“I never lose the wonder of this Gospel mystery
From the heavens came and Savior
From the ground who rose a King
Every day is born in darkness
Every winter yields to spring
So let us speak of resurrection
Even in the summary
As the sisters begged the Savior
Come at once to Bethany!
For the one that you love is dying
But His yes was not to be
And His weeping begged the question
Could this friend he not have healed?
But He still is resurrection
Even when the tomb is sealed
He speaks a whisper in the silence
Sleeps a harvest in the sea
Cradled now a new beginning
In the heart there is belief
So crucify your hesitation
Wounded expectation bring
Will you welcome resurrection?
Will you crown who is King?”

Were you a lamp lighter this week?



Kev note: Edinburgh Scotland born novelist Robert Louis Stevenson had chronic respiratory issues throughout his life. As a young man confined to his bedroom for health reasons, he looked forward to watching the lamp lighter ignite the streetlamps with a hand carried torch. This accomplished writer of *Treasure Island* and *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and others, wrote this about the Scottish lamp lighter: He was “punching holes of light into a sea of darkness.” As we discussed this week, be a “lamp lighter” this week and “punch holes of light” into the world as a friend, dad, husband, and mentor.