

Who Is In Charge?

Text: Matthew 17:1-5

Introduction:

1. There is a story of a preacher who wanted to improve his preaching. He decided to record the Sunday morning service so that he could critique his sermon delivery. The first Sunday of his experiment he went home right after church, sat down on the sofa, and put the cassette in the player. He listened to the opening prayer, the hymns, the announcements, the scripture reading, and then he heard himself begin the introduction of his message. About 30 minutes later he woke to the sound of the congregation singing the invitation song.
2. We are living in a day where when God speaks, many are asleep. There is a book out that is titled, "*The Gagging of God.*"
 - a. Our secular world has dismissed the Lord and put themselves in His place. They have decided that everyone is free to make his own religion and Truth.
 - b. God is God; and **we are not** *is an important lesson.*
 - c. They have forgotten who is in charge!

I. Jesus Is In Charge!

- A. **Colossians 1:16-18** Speaks of Jesus in charge
- B. **Matthew 17:1-5** Jesus over Moses and Elijah
- C. **Luke 6:46** – we must obey Him
- D. **Matthew 7:24-27** we must listen and do what He says
- E. **John 12:48** – His Words will judge us

II. The Real Challenge to Jesus Comes From Self

- A. Adam and Eve were tempted by the crafty devil
 1. The devil lied to Eve, denying what God said
 2. Every appeal was to selfish desires (**Genesis 3:5,6**)
- B. Sin sometimes fools us today, appealing to what we desire (**1 John 2:15-17**)
 1. It is ours to obey our Lord's commands, not direct his counsels.
 2. The cost of obedience is nothing compared to the cost of disobedience.
- C. These desires make us want to challenge God's authority, to assert that we think we are in charge.
 1. Who Wants to Be a Millionaire has Three Lifelines:
 - a. *Poll the Audience*
 - i. Popular choices are not always right
 - a. **Exodus 23:2** – not to follow a multitude to do evil
 - b. **Matthew 7:13,14** – broad way leads to destruction.
 - Some people think that the church is a democracy; it is not; it is a kingdom, with only one king—JESUS! Only He can make laws.
 - b. *Eliminate the Choices (50/50) – (multiple guess???)*
 - i. **Acts 28:1-5** - they thought that Paul was a murderer then a god. They were wrong both times.
 - ii. **Jeremiah 10:23** – man cannot direct his own footsteps
 - c. *Ask an Expert Friend*
 - i. You can go to the wrong expert—some went to Gamaliel, the greatest teacher in Jerusalem for advice,

- a. Gamaliel (**Acts 5:34**) a certain Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the Law, respected by all the people, stood up in the Council
- b. Paul was educated under Gamaliel (**Acts 22:3**)
- c. But he did not know the truth as well as the apostles. He did not know what to do to be saved.
 - Experts can sometimes be wrong!!
 - **Matthew 15:14** – blind leading the blind
- D. Rules are made for a reason – Our Creator Knows Best
 1. Rules were made for the benefit of people. Rules are important because people are important.
 2. Every law of God was given for our “good” for our benefit.
 3. Every time someone thinks he can sin against God, he ends up hurting himself (*and often others*)
 4. God’s laws last longer than those who break them.

III. When We Become Christians We Make the Decision to Belong to God

- A. **1 Corinthians 6:19,20** – we are the temple of the indwelling Holy Spirit
- B. **Galatians 2:20** – Christ lives within us – we are no longer our own
- C. The real question today and for many today is this: “*Is Jesus Lord?*” Does He really have first place in your life?
- D. **Colossians 2:20-3:4** – set your affections on things above

Conclusion:

1. True spirituality is not judged by the opinions or feelings of others but by whether or not we have listened and obeyed the Lord.
2. Many years ago a very wise brother asked another brother in Christ a question that really made him stop and think: “*What Are You Becoming?*”
3. The church is going through many challenges and some desire changes. Before we decide we must ask:
 - What does the Bible say?
 - What does God want?
 - What are we becoming?