

THE PRIORITY OF RIGHT

Mt.26:36-39

In these verses, Jesus is faced with a decision. It is the same decision we make every day of lives (though ours is nothing compared to his).

The decision---"will I do what is right".

Everyone likes right, under certain circumstances.

If someone robs you, you want the police to do right.

If you loose your pocketbook, you want the person who finds it to do right

If a group at work are sitting around gossiping and you are their subject, you want them to do right.

If you take your car to a mechanic, you want him to do right.

We always like right when it's to our benefit. But, what if doing right costs us, what if it isn't easy, what if it isn't what we want to do?

Isn't right still right?

As my title suggests, doing right should be a priority in our lives.

It should come first.

It should come before what we want to do.

It should come before what others want for us to do.

It should come before the world's opinion.

Doing right was not just "a" priority in Jesus' life, it was "the" priority.

Jn 4:34My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Jn 6:38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Jn 8:29 ...I do always those things that please him.

1. **DOING RIGHT INVOLVES A BOOK** v.31 "it is written" / v. 54

All that was about to happen had already been written in the book.

Is 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

In other words, the decision Jesus was making was whether to do what this book said or not.

That is exactly the same decision we are faced with.

The ONLY standard we can go by to determine what is right or wrong, is this book.

We're living in a day in which people don't care about the Bible. I have heard people say, "I don't care what the Bible says".

We'd better care. This book is what God says. If it was a book that some man wrote, we could take it or leave it, but if it is a book that God wrote, we'd better obey it.

We can't take the part we like and ignore the part we don't.

2. **DOING RIGHT INVOLVES A BATTLE**

A battle is a fight between two opposing sides.

That little garden became the greatest battlefield this world had ever seen.

The word Gethsemane means "oil press". An oil press was a devise which was used to squeeze the oil out of the olives. That's the picture we see here.

Have you ever wondered why it is so difficult to do right? You'd think it would come naturally and be the easiest thing in the world to do. However, the opposite is true. Doing right is the most difficult thing we will ever try to do.

IT WILL BE A BATTLE WITH SATAN

Doing right means a battle between us and the devil. The devil hates God and every thing he stands for.

He attacks God by attacking us. He tries his best to keep us from doing right.

The devil is trying to stop Jesus from going on to the cross. He was trying to stop the plan of God for salvation. He tried his best to kill Jesus right there in the garden. He gave it all he had. I believe all the demons of hell were gathered at that place to fight against the Lord.

v. 38 ...“My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death”

This term means, "to be grieved all around". Jesus was being attacked from every angle. He was facing something like he had never faced before. There is no way to describe what was taking place.

“even unto death” He was under such emotional distress that had it continued, he would have died.

Lu 22:44 And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

This may have been a condition that is called Hemathidrosis. This can happen when a person is under severe emotional stress. The tiny capillaries in sweat glands break and cause a mixture of sweat and blood. This is very rare because of the extreme stress necessary for it to take place.

IT WILL BE A BATTLE WITH SELF v.39 “not as I will, but as thou wilt”

The human part of Jesus did not want to face what was ahead.

He was headed to the cross. He was about to take the sin of the world upon himself. He looked ahead and saw that foul cesspool of human filth.

He saw the SUFFERING...he endured pain that we cannot describe.

He saw the SIN...all the sin of mankind was placed on him as he hung on the cross.

He saw the SEPARATION...the father had to turn his back on his son as he hung on the cross.

This reveals to us that even though he was not rebelling or refusing to go to the cross, it was something that grieved him to the very depths of his heart.

We face the same type of battle with self when it comes to doing right (even though Jesus' battle was quite different since he did not have a sin nature). This flesh hates right, it resists us when we try to do right.

Mt 26:41the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Our flesh is wicked. Our flesh is weak.

Doing right becomes a battle between our way and God's way, what we desire and God desires.

IT WILL BE A BATTLE WITH SAINTS

Mt 26:31 Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night...

Mt 16:22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

As difficult as it is to understand, there are times when the ones who oppose us when we are trying to do right, are those who claim to know the same Lord we know.

BOOK / BATTLE

There are some people who not only aren't interested in doing right themselves, they don't want you to do right.

They won't do right themselves but they don't want you to either.

When you do right there will be some who won't understand. Some will make fun of you. Some will look at you like you're weird.

Humanly speaking, Jesus could have taken the easy way out. He could have refused to go through the agony. He could have escaped the torment.

He could have simply spoken the word and angels would have rushed to his rescue.

Mt 26:53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

But, he did what was right. He did what the father wanted him to do. It cost him and it will cost us.

He was willing to do what was right, no matter what it cost him.

That's how it is should be with us.

3. **DOING RIGHT INVOLVES A BURDEN** v. 40

I'm talking about the burden of trying to do right when most other people don't.

The devil will show you someone who ought to be doing right but isn't. Here you are sacrificing and doing your best to serve God and stay separated and everywhere you look, people are living as they please with little regard to the consequences.

If we aren't careful, it will discourage us and we'll stop doing right.

I know someone right now who is bitter because they have watched people. If we get our eyes on people, it will make it extremely difficult to do right.

The bad thing about is, when "Joe" sees someone else who isn't living right. He gets discouraged and quits doing right. Then someone else sees "Joe" and they get discouraged and stop doing right. It's like a snow ball that continues to get bigger.

A good lesson we all need to learn is the fact that God works with us as individuals. If he works in your life to bring you to the place of doing right, don't expect everyone else to be at that place.

It's amazing, here's a person who has been living for self for months or years, they get right and start walking with God and they immediately expect everyone else to the same. Then, they start criticizing those who are doing what they have done for years.

One of the greatest lessons we can learn is to do right whether anyone else does or not.

Bob Jones Sr. said "do right, do right, do right, though the stars fall, do right".

4. **DOING RIGHT INVOLVES A BLESSING**

Lk 22:43 And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him.

THE BLESSING OF HELPS

He was provided with that which he needed to do right.

Imagine, all the forces of hell were there fighting against Jesus, but all it took to overcome it all was just one angel from heaven.

THE BLESSING OF HEAVEN

But more than that, he was blessed because he did what was right.

There's no greater blessing than to do what the Lord desires of us.

The Lord of heaven will bless us if we will do right.

There is no greater joy than to be in the center of God's will. NOTHING can replace that.

We forfeit this blessing when we fail to do right. God will not bless those who refuse to make right a priority. He is God, he is holy, he cannot bless anything other than right.

He reserves his blessings for those who walk with him and do right.

We are faced daily with the decision of whether we will do right or not. Sometimes many times a day.

It may be something as simple as whether we come to church or not. It may be something so big that it would absolutely change our entire life.

There will be times when doing right costs us. (cross) But it is still the best thing to do.

When we obey him and do what is right we get closer to him. We stay in the place where he can freely work with us and use us.

Every time we do what we want and go our way we get further off the path that God has for us.

We will pay the consequences for our choices. The price is always too high.

Honestly, how important is doing right in your life? Is it a priority?