

Holy Harmony - Part 1

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I. Introduction.

A. Theme: a holy harmony.

B. Emphasis: holy.

C. What kind of a difference can we expect Jesus to make in our lives?

1. What kind of a difference has He already made?
2. Some can see distinct before and after changes concerning their decisions.
3. Yet in any real trouble or disaster we come face to face with the difference that can be made.
4. We must see the supernatural things.
 - a. Nature unveils the visible things that demonstrate invisible realities.
 - b. It is wonderful to see how God works in peoples' lives and her own.

D. A holy harmony.

1. "Thou shalt know Him when He comes not by any din of drums, nor the vantage of his heirs, nor by anything He wears...for His presence known shall be by the holy harmony that His coming makes in thee"
 - a. A characteristic of holy people is having a holy harmony.
 - b. The example of truly Godly people - they are people who suffer.
2. Suffering can cause anything but disharmony, but those who respond in faith will find harmony.
3. Aristotle said that everyone seeks happiness; the great difference is in where one finds it.
4. Who are the happiest people you know? These are the people who are rather simple, happy and holy. Do you want to be holy?
 - a. The word holy means wholeness.
 - b. One should ask what it is going to cost. It will cost everything.

II. To be holy is to fulfill God's ultimate purpose.

A. Everything shall find its perfection and fulfillment in Him. (Ephesians 1:3-12)

1. The world is desperately looking for fulfillment.
2. Testimony of women who left the corporate world - they did not find fulfillment there.
3. There is no fulfillment except that found in Christ.

B. The wisdom and power of God - Christ nailed to the cross. (I Corinthians 2:7-8)

1. This is diametrically opposed to what the world understands as wisdom and power - it is foolishness, weakness, and defeat.
2. The foolishness of God is wiser than the wisdom of men.
3. The purpose of God is always linked to the cross of Christ.
4. The purpose of God is for our fulfillment - for our consummation.

III. There is something that we have to do about it - we have to believe.

A. God is not going to invade the citadel of our freedom. We have the freedom to choose to receive Him or deny Him.

B. Many are having a hard time believing that the will of God means fulfillment.

C. There is no real freedom without obedience.

1. Wherever there is trust and obedience there is happiness.
2. Wherever there is mistrust and disobedience there is no happiness.

D. To have disciplined children there must be disciplined parents; God disciplines us because He loves us.

E. Trusting God is not easy, but it is simple.

1. Example of a man who sought counsel on engaging in adultery.
2. The answer was simple - obey God.

IV. There will be no holiness without the cross.

A. No one can follow Him who was crucified and evade a cross.

B. We have to give up ourselves.

1. We cannot serve two masters.
2. My will be done is the rule of hell; thy will be done is the rule of heaven.

C. We have to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

D. Jesus' call is a recipe for happiness.

1. The cross is bliss.
2. But it is also foolishness.

E. Taking up the cross is impossible without the help of God.

1. We have two wills at war within us.
2. The only basis of peace is the cessation of the conflict of two wills: my will versus God's. I come to him believing that His purpose for me is joy and fulfillment.
3. Jesus said, if you love Me, do what I say.
4. The holiness of God is never going to be effected in me until I come to the cross and surrender my will.

Application questions.

1. What does it mean to be holy? What is the cost of being holy? What is your reaction to this?

2. How is it that the cross is foolishness to the world yet the wisdom of God? How does this fulfill God's purpose in us?

3. Have you surrendered your will to His and accepted the pain and joy of the cross? How do you respond to the speaker's call to do so? Take some space to reflect upon this sweet surrender and share your thoughts with another.
