

The Work of the Father and Christ

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Good afternoon! This sermon is going to cover basically some things about Christ doing the will of God. What is the work of God? and Christ? Most people would say it's preaching the Gospel to the world. We know that's part of it.

Luke 2:41 tells the story about when Christ came up to Jerusalem with His parents at the Passover: "Now, His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years *old*, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the Feast. But when they departed after completing the days, the Child Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, and Joseph and His mother did not know *it*; but supposing Him to be in the company..." (vs 41-44)—the party that were going ahead. They thought He was probably with some relatives.

"...they went a day's journey, and looked for Him among the relatives and among the acquaintances. And when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. Now, it came to pass *that* after three days... [they searched for three days] ...they found Him in the temple, sitting in *the* midst of the teachers, both hearing them and questioning them. **And all those who were listening to Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers**" (vs 44-47). There He was with the doctors of His day, and He was asking questions that they were amazed at, and He was also giving some input and they were very surprised, because here was a child only 12-years-old!

Verse 48: "But when they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, 'Son, why have you dealt with us in this manner...Look, Your father and I have been *very* distressed *while* searching for You.' And He said to them, 'Why *is it* that you were looking for Me? Don't you realize that **I must be about My Father's *business*?**' But they did not understand the words that He spoke to them.... [He obeyed them; showed proper respect—*honor your father and mother!*] ...Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He was subject to them. But His mother kept all these things in her heart.... [as mother's would do] ...And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature... [growing in height as well] ...and in favor with God and men" (vs 48-52).

So, we see that when Christ was only 12-years-old He said, "**...I must be about My Father's *business*.**" What was that business? *Learning, being taught by the scholars, knowledgeable of the scrolls—Scriptures.* He was asking questions and He

was preparing Himself for the work ahead.

Verse 52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom..." He continued to grow in wisdom and knowledge in the Scripture, and growing up. At about age 12 you begin to see kids really spring up with spurts of growth. It said He grew in "...stature and also in favor with God and men."

1. **Example of Baptism**

In Matthew 3:13: "Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I have need to be baptized by You, and You come to me?' Then Jesus answered and said to him, 'You must permit *it* at this time; for in this manner it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.'..." (vs 13-15). Christ was saying that we have to fulfill all righteousness; we have to set the example.

"...Then he permitted Him *to be baptized*.... [he was willing to do it] ...And after He was baptized, Jesus came up immediately out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him. And lo, a voice from heaven said, '**This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I have great delight.**'" (vs 15-17).

First of all, we see that Christ told John, "...it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness..." This was part of an example. Christ gave this example for all. We know that repentance and baptizing and receiving of the Holy Spirit is how we start our relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ. After the baptism it says that the Spirit of God was descending upon Him and how please the Father was with His Son.

Wouldn't it be nice if God says that about us or could say that about us, 'Here are My children in whom I am well pleased.'

In Matthew 4 we see that Christ began His earthly ministry. That's after He was baptized. Matthew 4:12: "Now, when Jesus had heard that John was put in prison, He went into Galilee. And after leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which *is* on the seaside, on the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, saying, '*The land of Zabulon and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; the people who were sitting in darkness have seen a great light; and to those who were sitting in the realm and shadow of death, light has sprung up.*' From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, '**Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at**

hand” (vs 12-17).

1. **REPENTANCE**

We see the first thing that Christ mentions here is *repent*. He was there to represent God the Father. We know all the things that He had to go through and become the Lamb sacrifice. The main thing here was *the call to repentance!*

I think it was John who told the scribes and the Pharisees, ‘You bring forth fruits worthy of repentance when they came to be baptized. We see that in order to truly repent, you have to have some fruits; you have to be willing to change your life and turn that life around; acknowledging that you have broken God’s law, sinned against God and your fellow man. Repentance is the first thing that Christ said.

2. **CHRIST’S MINISTRY**

After that He began His ministry; He begins the selection of the 12 apostles. We won’t go through all of them, but we’ll read:

Verse 18: “And as Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a large net into the sea; for they were fishermen.” That was their trade.

Verse 19: “And He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Then they immediately left their nets *and* followed Him. And after leaving there, He saw two other brothers, James the *son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and He called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father *and* followed Him” (vs 19-22).

I’ve often wondered: They probably were familiar with Christ. Why would someone come along and say, ‘You follow Me and I’ll make you fishermen of men’? They must have had some knowledge of Christ. Many of them did; they thought He was starting something where that the Jews again would be out from under the rulership of the Romans and have their own nation again.

Somewhere I was reading that it kind of indicated that one of the ladies that was there when Christ was crucified and witnessing that, that one of them could have been the sister of Mary, Christ’s mother. Zebedee could have been married—again, this is speculation—to the sister of Mary.

So, John would have been familiar with Him. John was disciple that Christ loved. He always referred to him as that; instead of saying ‘John,’ It says, ‘the disciple that Christ loved.’ It could have been that they grew up together. I’m sure they were somewhat familiar with Christ. They must have

some knowledge and Christ having some knowledge of them. There again, that’s just some speculation. It doesn’t spell it out in the Gospels. He said, “...I will make you fishers of men”; to have a new occupation and will be used greatly.

Verse 23: “And Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the Gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every bodily ailment among the people.”

We’ve talked about repentance and He goes about preaching and teaching them in the synagogues and healing those what had infirmities and had all different types of sicknesses and diseases among the people.

Christ wasn’t like the scribes and the Pharisees, because He taught with authority. The people recognized this.

Mark 1:21: “Then they went into Capernaum. And on the Sabbaths, after going into the synagogue, He straightway taught *the people*. And they were astonished at His doctrine; for He was teaching them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes” (vs 21-22).

When the religious teachers of that day spoke, evidently it wasn’t with any kind of authority; maybe it was just mundane with a monotone voice and after a while you go to sleep, or you wish you could get up and leave. ***Christ taught them with authority***—very vivacious, evidently strong! People recognized this.

Verse 23: “Now, in their synagogue there was a man with an unclean spirit; and it cried out, saying, ‘Ah! What have we to do with You, Jesus, *the Nazarene*? Have You come to destroy us? I know Who You are—the Holy *One* of God!’” (vs 23-24). The demons recognized His authority and Who He was and where He came from. They said, “...Have You come to destroy us?...”

Verse 25: “But Jesus rebuked it, saying, ‘Be silent, and come out of him.’”

Mark 6:1: “And He left there and came into His *own* country, and His disciples followed Him. Now, when the Sabbath Day came, He began to teach in the synagogue; and many *of those* who heard Him were astonished, saying, ‘From where did this *Man* get these things? And what *is* this wisdom that has been given to Him, that by His hands many miracles are done also? Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?’ And they were offended in Him. But Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his *own* country, and among *his own* kinsmen, and in his *own* house’” (vs 1-4).

Here He was among the people that He grew up with, and His kindred. They said, ‘Who’s this guy?’ Because too often where we grow up or the people who know us, know our background and where we come from, and all of a sudden we come into some kind of position or something, they say, ‘We know this guy, He’s nobody, He came from nothing,’ and maybe you can tell some tales on him. So, Christ wasn’t recognized there.

It doesn’t mention Joseph, so maybe at that time His father—according to the flesh; His step-father—had already passed away. It mentions the son of Mary and His brothers and sisters.

They were astonished at His teaching and many people get offended and say, ‘I know this guy; I know His background; He couldn’t be anybody.’

Mark 11:18: “Now, the chief priests and the scribes heard *this*, and they sought how they might destroy Him; for they feared Him, because all the multitudes marveled at His teaching.”

The multitudes that He taught marveled, and the scribes and Pharisees were jealous of Him and envious of Him, because the people were listening to Him. They were astonished at His teaching! Again, we see that they recognized Christ as being an authoritative speaker, had knowledge of what He was saying and what He said:

Luke 4:31: “Then He went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the **Sabbaths**.” He’s teaching on the Sabbath; and also Holy Days as it’s referring to here.

Verse 32: “And they were astonished at His teaching, for His Word was with authority.” Again, it shows the conviction and things that came across from Christ as He taught them.

You have to be convicted yourself if you’re speaking. You have to be convicted of what you are saying. And evidently the religious teachers of that day didn’t come across that way. They were mundane—a lot of them—and would put you to sleep if you were there.

John 7—we see where they questioned Christ’s learning. He didn’t go to *their* religious schools. He wasn’t trained in the schools of the Pharisees or the scribes or any of the other sects at that time.

John 7:14: “But then, about the middle of the Feast, Jesus went up into the temple and was teaching.... [during a Feast] ...And the Jews were amazed, saying, ‘How does this Man know letters, having never been schooled?’” (vs 14-15). Christ was actually taught by *God the Father*. He didn’t go to *their* religious schools. That’s why they were saying these things.

Verse 16: “Jesus answered them and said, ‘My doctrine is not Mine, but His Who sent Me.’” He’s saying, ‘I’m teaching what God sent Me to teach and what He taught Me.’ In other places it says, ‘I can only teach what My Father tells Me to say and teach.’

Verse 17: “If anyone desires to do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it is from God, or *whether* I speak from My own self. The one who speaks of himself is seeking his own glory; but He Who seeks the glory of Him Who sent Him is true, and there is no unrighteousness in Him” (vs 17-18). They questioned His learning. But Christ was teaching what the Father had instructed Him to say and what to do.

All these things Christ was doing was *being about His Father’s business*. First of all setting the example of baptism and He went about preaching repentance. He goes on then to choose the 12 who would be the foundations stones of His Church.

3. **FOUNDATION of the CHURCH**

Ephesians 2:19: “So then, you are no longer aliens and foreigners; but *you are* fellow citizens with the saints, and *are* of the household of God. You are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being *the* chief Cornerstone” (vs 19-20). They were called to be apostles, foundation stones, the very pillar of the Church that they would help raise up through Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Revelation 21 talks about the reward of their names, how they’re going in heavenly Jerusalem. Revelation 21:14: “And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and written on them *were the* names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.” We know that the Lamb is Jesus Christ. He taught them personally, and they became the foundation stone of the Church.

Recently I received something how all the apostles died—with the exception of John; whom it said was cast into a boiling caldron of oil, but he survived and they put him on the Isle of Patmos where they had slaves and that’s where he wrote the book of Revelation. But all the others died horrible deaths. How much of it is true I don’t know, but we know that tradition has it that John was the only one who actually lived out his life and died a natural death.

Christ was about doing the will of His Father. At 12 years of age He said, ‘Don’t you know that I must be about My Father’s business?’ Showing how focused He was about His mission upon the earth and what God had sent Him there to do.

4. **REVEALING the FATHER**

We know that one of the things that Christ came to do, and that is to *reveal the Father*. Matthew 11:25: At that time Jesus answered and said, ‘I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to babes. Yes, Father, for it was well pleasing in Your sight *to do* this. All things were delivered to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; neither does anyone know the Father except the Son, **and the one to whom the Son personally chooses to reveal Him**’ (vs 25-27).

He not only reveals the Father, but **“...whom the son personally chooses to reveal Him”**—which is very important, the ones that Christ would call out just as He did the apostles—and later on the Apostle Paul—in raising up the Church on the Day of Pentecost. *He came to reveal the Father and to reveal Him to whom He will*. Christ has revealed the Father to us.

John 6:46: “No one has seen the Father except **He Who** is from God... [talking of Himself] ...He has seen the Father.” Again, we see that no one has seen the Father. *He came to reveal the Father!*

John 1:18: “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, Who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared Him**.” Again, Christ came to reveal the Father, to “...declare *Him*” That’s another thing that Christ came to do. There are many other Scriptures that say that one of the things Christ came to do is to *reveal* the Father. That was part of the work that He was given to do.

5. **THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB**

Another part of the work that He was to do is *become our sacrificial Lamb*, v 29: “On the next day, John sees Jesus coming to him, and he says, ‘Behold the Lamb of God, **Who takes away the sin of the world**.’” We know that was the purpose of His coming to this earth, to become a sacrificial Lamb, that He could take away the sins of the world and we can have life through Him—*eternal life!*

Acts 8:30: “And when Philip ran up, he heard him reading *the words of the prophet Isaiah...*” {found in Isa. 53:7-12}

Here was this eunuch; he had been reading and studying. He was an Ethiopian (v 27). He was high up there and part of the government under Queen Candace. He was reading but he didn’t understand exactly what he was reading.

Verse 29: “Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and join yourself to this chariot.’ And when Philip ran up, he heard him reading *the words*

of the prophet Isaiah, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are now reading?’ And he said, ‘But how am I able *to understand*, without someone to guide me?’ And he besought Philip to come up and sit with him. Now, the passage of Scripture that he was reading was this, ‘He was led as a sheep to slaughter; and as a lamb *is dumb* before the one who is shearing it, so He did not open His mouth. In His humiliation, His judgment was taken away; and who shall declare His genealogy? For His life is taken from the earth.’ And the eunuch answered *and* said to Philip, ‘I pray you, about whom does the prophet say this? About himself, or about another?’ Then Philip opened his mouth and, beginning from this Scripture, preached to him the Gospel *of Jesus*” (vs 29-34).

Philip starts evidently in Isa. 53 and began to tell him about Jesus Christ; who He was and about the purpose of His coming. He told him about the sacrifice of Christ.

1-Peter 2:21: “For to this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow in His footsteps Who committed no sin; neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; *when* suffering, He threatened not, but committed *Himself* to Him Who judges righteously; Who Himself bore our sins within His own body on the tree... [took the sins of all mankind upon Himself] ...so that we, being dead to sins, may live unto righteousness; by Whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls” (vs 21-25). Peter tells about the suffering and example of Christ for us.

Revelation 5:5: “Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion Who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the book, and to loose its seven seals.’ Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing **a Lamb as having been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that are sent into all the earth; and He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him Who sits on the throne. And when He took the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, ‘Worthy are You to take the book, and to open its seals because You were slain... [talking about Christ] ...and did **redeem us to God by Your own blood**, out of every tribe and language and people and nation” (vs 5-9).

So, He became a sacrifice of all mankind, not just of Israel, but every man and woman; every

tribe and nation and nationality—Christ died for all of mankind.

Verse 10: “And did make us unto our God kings and priests; and we shall reign on the earth.” Again, a future time when we shall reign—those who are the children of God, born into His Family, granted eternal life, to come back and reign upon this earth.

Christ is referred to as *a Lamb slain for us*. This was done, this plan was sought out by God the Father and Christ *from the foundation of the world!*

Revelation 13:8: “And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the book of life of the Lamb **slain from the foundation of the world.**” There is coming a time when all are going to have to either worship Him or they’re going to have to reject Him. Those who have accepted:

- those whom God has called out
- that have willingly followed and obeyed Him
- want to be His children
- want to be in His Family
- that have repented
- that have been baptized
- those in whom God’s Spirit dwells
- those whom grow in grace and knowledge and favor with God
- those to be an example for man
- those to help, teach and be with Them

From the foundation of the world there was a plan that had to be: *for Christ to become our sacrificial lamb and to die for and ascend back to the Father*—where He is today.

6. **TO DO the WILL of the FATHER**

He is our Intercessor, and Paul says in Hebrews that we have a ‘great High Priest Who knows all of our weaknesses, infirmities—weakness of man—and can make intercession for us.

Matthew 26:38: “Then He said to them, ‘My soul is deeply grieved, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.’ And after going forward a little, He fell on His face, praying, and saying, ‘My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, **not as I will, but as You will.**” (vs 38-39). Again, we see obedience to God, His Father, to come to do His will and whatever the Father wanted He was willing to do.

Mark 14:34: “And He said to them, ‘My soul is filled with anguish, even to death; remain here and watch.’ [He was asking Peter, James and John if they would stay there and watch with Him] ...Then He went forward a little, dropped to the

ground and prayed, that if it were possible...” (vs 34-35). In other words, ‘I know that that you can work it out another way.’

He was asking, “that if it were possible the hour might pass from Him. And He said, ‘Abba, Father, all things *are* possible with You. Remove this cup from Me! Yet, not what I will, but what You *will.*” (vs 35-36).

We see here that Christ uses a personal term for *the Father*, saying “...Abba, Father...”; like us saying ‘Dad.’ Most people called their father’s ‘dad’; they don’t go around saying ‘father.’ So, this is a personal usage there, when He says, “...Abba, Father...” showing the unique relationship to God that He had. We know many were offended, at that time, for Christ to use that expression, because it was a very personal thing. Like some people today think that you have to call God by a certain name, or that you cannot even say His name.

My answer to people is that Christ called Him ‘Father’ and I can call Him ‘Father.’ And that’s what I call Him when I pray, and I say, ‘My Father Who is in heaven.’ It’s that personal relationship that we build with God the Father, just like Jesus Christ.

And for those, hopefully they will come to see that’s what it’s all about, building a personal relationship with God and being able to call Him ‘Father’ or ‘Dad’ just like Jesus Christ did. That’s the kind of relationship that He wants us to have with Him, to be able to call Him ‘Dad’ or ‘Father’ and to come and to converse with Him and talk with Him.

That’s what He wants and that’s what we should want and get these things out that have been programmed into man that would cause them not to have that personal relationship that God wants us to have with Him, and also with His Son—our Savior Jesus Christ.

Matthew 26:52: “Then Jesus said to him, ‘Put your sword back in its place; for all who take up *the sword shall die by the sword.* Don’t you realize that I have the power to call upon the Father at this time, and He will furnish Me with more than twelve legions of angels?’” (vs 52-53).

So, He told Peter to put away his sword, that if He so desired, He could call upon God—His Father—that He would send 12 legions of angels to stop His crucifixion. But He didn’t do that. It says that a Roman legion consists of 6,000 soldiers. So, that would have been about 72,000 angels! ‘Don’t you realize that I could call upon and immediately have 72,000 angels here to deliver me from this if that’s what I really wanted? and what God wanted?’ *No!* That wasn’t part of the plan from the creation of the earth, where He was to be killed and become a

sacrificial lamb for us.

Christ's will was to do the will of His Father, and fulfill the Scriptures. He didn't ask for the 72,000 angels. He was obedient to death, as it says, doing what His Father's will was; *doing the business of the Father*.

7. THE GOOD SHEPHERD

John 10:14: "**I am the good Shepherd**, and I know those who *are* Mine, and am known of those who *are* Mine." Christ knows who we are! And we should know Who our Shepherd is! The One Who is going to watch out for us, to take care of us, that goes before us to prepare the way to make sure there's nothing in the way that would harm us.

Verse 15: "Just as the **Father knows Me, I also know the Father**; and I lay down My life for the sheep." That shows the relationship that They have.

Verse 16: "And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring those also, and they shall hear My voice; and there shall be one flock *and* one Shepherd."

Down through the ages since Christ died—was crucified—and went back to the very throne of God, down through the ages many people have been called out that they truly knew that Christ was their Shepherd. They knew Christ and Christ knew them, and they will be in that resurrection to become a part of the Family of God.

Verse 17: "On account of this, the Father loves Me: because I lay down My life, that I may receive it back again." From the foundation of the world this was planned: that He would have to die to become our sacrificial lamb, to guide us back to the Father, to get us out of the clutches and slave ship of Satan the devil and the demons, and the governments of this world.

Verse 18: "No one takes it from Me... [in other words, 'I'm, not being forced to do this] ...but I lay it down of Myself.... [I'm willingly doing this] ...I have authority to lay it down and authority to receive it back again. This commandment I received from My Father." So, in the plan, He said, 'Yes, You will have to die, but You will have life again.'

Christ did this for us and for all mankind so that reconciliation could take place and that we might become the very sons of God.

What is the will of God and Christ for us?

- Repentance

We have to repent and we must see something that we have to repent of. If you don't see it, you're not

going to repent. It has to be brought to our knowledge and mind, and we have to admit and change from that.

- Change this vile nature

If you want to say that's 'job one'—that is *job one!* As Paul went through he writes about all that; the struggle that he went through trying to change his nature and bring unto the very thoughts and to the very character of God.

- stay faithful to the very end—to death
- help others and pray for one another
- forgive one another

That's a hard job. For many of us, it's to be willing to love others and help one another, forgive one another, because our nature—this nature that we were born with—wants to hold grudges. It wants to go back—if we live to be 100-years-old—and remember what So-and-So did to me when we were kids.

We have to love God and He says to 'love one another.' That's how the commandments are broken down: *You love God with all your heart and mind and love your neighbor as we love ourselves!*

- set an example of God's way of life

That's what Christ did

- help and teach others if the opportunity arises

Give an answer for 'the hope that lies within us.' That doesn't mean we need to go around preaching, because that can get us in trouble.

I've done things in my life; tried to tell people things and they don't understand. It's just like waving your hand in front of their face like they're asleep. Their minds haven't been opened and all it can do is sometimes cause you trouble. Then they'll tell others and they'll come back and say, 'I don't believe those things. I don't know if they're in the Bible or not. I've not seen them.' *or* You can read them a Scripture that's plain to us, but to them they don't understand it.

If there is a time that somebody wants an answer, it's our job to try to give them an answer from God's Word asking for His Spirit and help to do so in a right way. This was an example of Pricilla and Aquila in Acts 18. It goes back to Christ's teaching. He was taught by the Father, but they said, 'Where did You learn all these things. You didn't go to our schools.' The same thing here with Pricilla and Aquila, because they were called—their minds were opened—and they understood things. Evidently they were familiar with the Scriptures. But once God called them and they had His Holy Spirit given to them to understand.

A lot of people thought that Apollos was trained and had a lot of knowledge and ‘I could probably tell him a few things, but he knows a lot more than I do; he’s got these credentials.’ That’s kind of the case with Aquila and Priscilla.

Acts 18:24: “Now, a certain Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man who was skilled in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John” (vs 24-25).

So, the things that he was teaching were accurate, but they were the teachings of John. Some things through Christ and the Holy Spirit, in the beginning of the Church, some things he didn’t understand.

Verse 26: “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue.... [what he knew] ...And after hearing him, Aquila and Priscilla took him and expounded the way of God to him more perfectly.” They weren’t afraid. They began to expound things to him that he did not know, as yet.

We know that Apollos is mentioned many times with Paul. He took the new knowledge and went even further in being able to teach about God, the Scriptures, eternal life, Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism, and all of that. Sometimes we think that we ought not say anything to this person because he knows a lot more than I do. If we do it in the right way, and if they have an open mind, it can really be a benefit to them.

The same thing with Philip and the Eunuch, as we read in Acts 8 because Philip was able to teach him. The Eunuch said he didn’t understand what he was reading, and Philip was able to explain to him about Christ, how He was the One prophesied in Isaiah and He came and fulfilled that. We need to build a relationship with God the Father and Christ everyday through prayer and study of His Word. That’s how we grow in grace and knowledge, because we listen and apply.

John 10:22: “Now it was winter, and the feast of dedication was taking place at Jerusalem. And Jesus was walking in the temple in Solomon’s porch. Then the Jews encircled Him... [gathered around in a big circle] ...and said to Him, ‘How long are You going to hold us in suspense?... [we can’t wait any longer; we have got to know] ...If You are the Christ, tell us plainly’” (vs 22-24). We don’t want You talking in parables or whatever.

Verse 25: “Jesus answered them, ‘I have told you, but you do not believe. The works that I am doing in My Father’s name, these bear witness of Me. But you do not believe because you are not of

My sheep, as I said to you’” (vs 25-26). Showing again what the Father taught Him and told Him, the works that He was doing in the Father’s name and bearing witness. They didn’t believe because their minds were not open; they were not part of that flock of sheep that Christ was calling out at that time.

Verse 27: “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.” So, the ones whose minds have been opened, that God has called and granted repentance, then they will listen. But the religious leaders of that day, they had *their own ideas* and how they should worship God.

Here is our promise; if we stay faithful and we do the will of the Father and our older brother Jesus Christ, v 28: “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; and no one shall take them out of My hand” (vs 28-29). If we’re truly dedicated to God—He knows us and we know Him—and we’re striving to walk in His way, it says, “...no one shall take them out of My hand.” ***That means Satan the devil, governments or anything!***

That is a promise from God our Father and Jesus Christ. Like Christ, ***let us be about our Father’s business!*** If He shows us what His will is, then help us that we will be willing to do His will—whatever He asks us to do in order ***that we can be in His Family and His Kingdom and have eternal life and live forever!***

Scriptural References:

- 1) Luke 2:51-52
- 2) Matthew 3:13-17
- 3) Matthew 4:12-23
- 4) Mark 1:21-25
- 5) Mark 6:1-4
- 6) Mark 11:18
- 7) Luke 4:31-32
- 8) John 7:14-18
- 9) Ephesians 2:19-20
- 10) Revelation 21:14
- 11) Matthew 11:25-27
- 12) John 6:46
- 13) John 1:18, 29
- 14) Acts 8:30, 29-34
- 15) 1 Peter 2:21-25
- 16) Revelation 5:5-10
- 17) Revelation 13:8
- 18) Matthew 26:38-39
- 19) Mark 14:34-36
- 20) Matthew 26:52-53
- 21) John 10:14-18
- 22) Acts 18:24-26
- 23) John 10:22-29

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Isaiah 53:7-12
- Acts 8:27

MF:bo
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