



THIS IS US, PART 3: B4: A "BOTH AND" CHURCH

February 3, 2019

Pastor Randy Remington

BIBLICAL TEXT(S)

*"Preaching Jesus
and demonstrating
His love in practical
ways – that's the
Foursquare way.
It's not either-or.
It's both-and."*

–Pastor Randy

MAIN:

"Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22:34-40)

"Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs... So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him... But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate." (Luke 15:11-15, 20, 22-24)

"In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead... But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have'" (Luke 10:30, 33-35)

SUPPORTIVE:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4)

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19)

"He has shown all you people what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8)

"For they have forsaken me and made this a place of foreign gods; they have burned incense in it to gods that neither they nor their ancestors nor the kings of Judah ever knew, and they have filled this place with the blood of the innocent." (Jeremiah 19:4)

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world." (James 1:27)

MESSAGE SUMMARY

God is one and three, not one or three. Jesus' was both human and divine. Neither of these examples is "either-or," but "both-and." The Bible is a product of divine inspiration and human authorship. Again, both-and. The Kingdom of God is both here, and not yet. Creation is both good and fallen. We are a church both of the Spirit and the Word. There are a similar question revolving around what the church is to do in the world. Are we to be about evangelism or social action? It's both-and. The first four commandments speak to our relationship with God, and the latter six speak to our relationships with other people. The prophets always spoke about the vertical sin (idolatry) as well as the sin committed against other people (injustice). Our holiness towards God and our compassion and care towards others both matter.

The greatest revivals in history have embraced this both-and approach. John Wesley preached all the time, everywhere. But was also spoke out against alcoholism and child labor. George Whitfield preached Christ crucified, but he also gave huge amounts of his fortune away to start orphanages. Another evangelist, Charles Finney called people to salvation, but he also called Jesus followers to help abolish slavery. William Wilberforce and others started missionary societies and Sunday school, but they also worked to end slavery and animal cruelty.

In Luke 10, Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan, in which the man afflicted was a victim of the sin of others. The Good Samaritan cares for the victim's wounds, takes him to safety, and pays for his lodging- the victim was saved by charity and justice. Then, just a few chapters later, in Luke 15, Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Father. Here, the prodigal son is modeling personal sin, that which he chose, yet the Father still welcomes the lost son. The son is not healed in a physical way, but through forgiveness and grace as he is welcomed back into the family. In both stories, there are those who show indifference. Some refuse the call of social justice (the Levite and Priest), and some refuse the call of evangelism (the older brother). But God's heart is for the broken and hurting people to experience both-and.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage and the speaker's message, helping them understand and apply the teaching.

LEAN IN

These are icebreaker/warm up questions, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What example or story stood out to you in Sunday's sermon?
Why was it significant to you?
2. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)?
What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?
3. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it has an impact on your life in any way?
4. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week?
What's one that you are dreading?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions on the passage and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. In Matthew 22:32-40, why do you think Jesus answered the Sadducees and Pharisees with not one command, but two?
2. Jesus tells the Parable of the Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Good Father to tell us what the Kingdom of God is like. What can you tell about the Kingdom of God from these two parables?
3. In the Parable of the Good Father in Luke 15, what do you think the younger son's actions tell about his attitude towards his father? What do you think the father's actions tell about his attitudes towards his son?

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS,
CONT.**

4. Do you think the older brother in the Parable of the Good Father (Luke 15) is justified in his behavior? Why or why not?
5. Describe the context in which Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan? What was this story told in response to?

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Sins of omission are failing to do that which we are called to (feeding the poor, caring for the disenfranchised), while sins of commission are that which we do but shouldn't (gossiping, having hate in our hearts, having sex outside of marriage). God cares not only about caring for the poor, providing clean water, and helping the sick become well, and God also cares about our attitudes, what our sexual morals are, and how we spend our money. Do you find that you are more aware of your sins of omission or commission?
2. Do you find that you gravitate towards either social action or evangelism? Why do you think this is?
3. Which son in the Parable of the Good Father do you identify with? Why?
4. If Jesus were telling the Parable of the Good Samaritan today, who do you think he would choose to be the characters of the Levite, priest, and Samaritan?
5. What kind of person needs to hear the story that Jesus told to the lawyer (the Parable of the Good Samaritan)?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application.

Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max

1. Have you had an encounter where someone cared for your practical needs as the Good Samaritan cared for the man beaten on the way to Jerusalem?
2. Have you experienced undeserved grace when you didn't deserve it, much like the prodigal son experienced upon returning home?
3. Have you passed by someone, or looked the other way, when you see someone like the man who was attacked on his way to Jerusalem? What made you turn away rather than face their pain?
4. Have you been indignant at God's unjust grace and forgiveness extended to someone whom you didn't think deserved it? Why did you feel this way?
5. What has been your response to being in one of the above situations?

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life.

Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Where do you see an opportunity to either tell people about Jesus or show compassion through social action? What are the steps you could take this week?
2. How do you feel challenged to compassionately share the Good News through both social justice and telling people about Jesus?