

Sixth Sunday of Easter



Commandment Keeping is a confusing task, especially for those American Christians who have been raised on generations of the threat of power attached to disobeying the Commandments of God. We get nervous talking about them, because, quite frankly, it is something better swept under the rug. So we simply ignore them.

Jesus tells us about commandment keeping. When we do this, we show His love. If we do not, we cannot claim to be followers. That simple!

The “if you love me” leads us to the action step that John describes in the gospel, “show it by doing what I’ve told you.” This suggests at first, that this is all based on action, not just thinking about the commandments. We are doing them. We are living them. We are conduits of the love of Jesus by the things we do, and the things we say. It is our actions, and not our words, that are looked at here.

Here’s the major caveat we need to understand. Society does not believe or want to listen to Jesus. We are in a place of doing things “our way” and we don’t need any stinking advice from Jesus. That’s the way most people live out their lives, in spite of the words of Jesus himself. Unfortunately, many “christian” folks follow that lead, and not Jesus. They deceive themselves as they are deceived by the prince of lies, Satan himself, when we believe it just doesn’t matter. It does!

It becomes amazingly transparent even though we kid ourselves to see things otherwise. Being a disciple of Jesus means you act out on His words, deeds, and actions every day. It is a way of life, not an optional list. And if we love Him, it comes easy for us, and we rejoice in the special opportunities we have been given to love God with all we have, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Just like Jesus said. Each and every day we have the grace to act that out for others to see.

It might not be important that others see it. Can Jesus see it in you?

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

OUR WORSHIP TODAY

GATHERING AND MEDITATION TIME

Pre-Service Music

CONFSSIONAL PRAYER

This blessed Easter season is our celebration of the great work that Jesus had accomplish while here on earth. His care and concern for the lost, the disenfranchised, and the neglected of society points our attention to what Jesus truly felt important as He shared the good news that the Kingdom of God was made manifest in His work, His suffering, His death on the cross, and now, His resurrection. We allow too many things to distract our attention away from what Christ brought that first Easter, and all of the subsequent Easters we celebrate. For that, and for the many other times we let our Lord down, we make our confession this day.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by the things we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake, and by His promise, forgives us all our sin. Therefore on His behalf, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go and sin no more, that the rest of your life might be pure and holy and modeled after our Lord Jesus in all we say and all we do, we pray in His Holy Name, **Amen**

HYMN 461 Just a Closer Walk with Thee 1,2,3

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison): Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Alleluia. Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Alleluia.

SPECIAL MUSIC- "I Believe"

Dean Carson, Soloist

THE FIRST LESSON: Acts 17:22-31

New Living Translation (NLT)

So Paul, standing before the council, addressed them as follows: "Men of Athens, I notice that you are very religious in every way, for as I was walking along I saw your many shrines. And one of your altars had this inscription on it: 'To an Unknown God.' This God, whom you worship without knowing, is the one I'm telling you about.

"He is the God who made the world and everything in it. Since he is Lord of heaven and earth, he doesn't live in man-made temples, and human hands can't serve his needs—for he has no needs. He himself gives life and breath to everything, and he satisfies every need. From one man he created all the nations throughout the whole earth. He decided beforehand when they should rise and fall, and he determined their boundaries.

"His purpose was for the nations to seek after God and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him—though he is not far from any one of us. For in him we live and move and exist. As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.' And since this is true, we shouldn't think of God as an idol designed by craftsmen from gold or silver or stone.

"God overlooked people's ignorance about these things in earlier times, but now he commands everyone everywhere to repent of their sins and turn to him. For he has set a day for judging the world with justice by the man he has appointed, and he proved to everyone who this is by raising him from the dead."

THE SECOND LESSON: 1 Peter 3:13-22

New Living Translation (NLT)

Now, who will want to harm you if you are eager to do good? But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. Remember, it is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!

Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit.

So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And that water is a picture of baptism, which

now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Now Christ has gone to heaven. He is seated in the place of honor next to God, and all the angels and authorities and powers accept his authority.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 14:15-21

The Message (MSG)

“If you love me, show it by doing what I’ve told you. I will talk to the Father, and he’ll provide you another Friend so that you will always have someone with you. This Friend is the Spirit of Truth. The godless world can’t take him in because it doesn’t have eyes to see him, doesn’t know what to look for. But you know him already because he has been staying with you, and will even be in you!

“I will not leave you orphaned. I’m coming back. In just a little while the world will no longer see me, but you’re going to see me because I am alive and you’re about to come alive. At that moment you will know absolutely that I’m in my Father, and you’re in me, and I’m in you.

“The person who knows my commandments and keeps them, that’s who loves me. And the person who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and make myself plain to him.”

The Gospel of our Lord.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.

SERMON “Commandment Keeping”

Pastor Jonathon Kosec

SERMON HYMN: 13 Come Thou Font of Every Blessing 1,2,3

OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed (C)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE OFFERING:

After the consecration of the Offering, we will sing the Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise him, all creatures here below, Praise him above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

THE PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, WORDS OF INSTITUTION, LORD'S PRAYER

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE COMMUNION

HYMN 522 I Love to Tell the Story 1,2,4

THE BENEDICTION & THE DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God

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WELCOME TO OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN! Thank you for joining us as we worship our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! We are happy you are here! Please take a moment to turn your Cell Phone or other devices to mute, so they do not go off during the service and become disruptive. We appreciate your help to this regard. And thanks again for being here with us this morning!

IN OUR PRAYERS: We take time during our service to offer petitions for the prayer needs of ourselves, our families, our friends, and the world. Pastor will invite prayer requests at the beginning of our service, so simply share them at that time.

TO OUR GUESTS: Welcome! We are happy that you are here, and we hope you have felt comfortable since you arrived. You are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper this day as God's sign of our redemption, His presence among us, and His promise to come again.

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR PASTOR AND CHERYL will take place next Sunday before worship, starting around 9:30 AM and running until service time. We respect the fact that it is the Memorial Day weekend and many have plans right after church, so please join us *ahead* of time for donuts, coffee, and conversation! Our worship next Sunday will follow out the Memorial Day theme as well. Please plan to join us! Next Sunday marks Pastor Kosec's final day with OSLC!

CALL COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION by the membership of OSLC is both welcomed and encouraged. If you are interested in participating in the process, it is not too late to become involved. Talk to President Dean Carson about the opportunity to get involved and serve if that is what you would like to do. The Call Committee is up and running and actively working to bring the next pastor to OSLC!

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