

The Gospel According to Matthew pt 4

(Who maketh us to Differ)

(1Co 4:5-7) Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God. And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another. For who maketh thee to differ?

Have you ever thought to yourself, *“I wished my faith was stronger like Abrahams was, or I wished I could just do the things I know would be pleasing to our Lord”*? those are good thoughts to have, good desires of the heart, yet I can remember a day when those thoughts would not cross my mind at all. I remember a time when I had no thoughts on the true and living God, some of you may remember also, or maybe you remember a time when your thoughts on God were according to the ways of a particular religion, maybe a type of works, but now God has expounded the Scriptures unto you, revealing the things of Himself to a new heart! Oh how I wish I could be more like the Christ my Savior, does it not say we are to conformed to His image!

(Rom 8:29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son,

In our text in Matthew chapter 1, we are given a picture of a saint of God, a child of the most-High, one of God’s chosen blood bought people, Bought with the precious Blood of Christ, following the Lord’s instructions!

Read verses 18-25 of Matthew chapter 1

As we considered last week, Joseph was in a position of grave concern, in his eyes, Mary had sinned a great sin against him! he had every right to put her away in public divorce, or even have her stoned to death!

Yet As a compassionate, just man, he thought lovingly to put her away Privily (V19). Yet something bigger than himself changed his mind! Something turned Him a different direction!

(Mat 1:24) Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

Folks this has huge implications for you and I, before you go thinking more of yourself than you should, as one who has been saved from our sins, let us consider Joseph. Did he, knowing the true and living God, (which I believe he did), turn on His own? No! he was pondering putting her away, “But God”, folks God made the difference, He came in the Spirit and turned the mind as he would a river, the point I wish to bring before you this evening is this; are your most inner prayers this? **“Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned”** (Lam 5:21). Not just occasionally, like when I think I really need it, but every moment, do you need Him, do you need him every hour?

Am I harboring any pride in my heart for what I think are my good works, is there any pride in my decisions? or am I truly giving Him His glory? Are my actions now because of something in this flesh, or is it all of God?

The point being made of Joseph here is this, if left to ourselves, we will make worldly choices!

(Pro 21:1-2) The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes:

Folks sometimes the lord seems to leave us to ourselves, to test us maybe, not that He needs to see what we would do for He know all things, but so we would know! Are we trusting Him in all things? Am I waiting on Him? Including in my walk right now, our walk in weakness?

Yet there is One who now dwells in us, who has been guiding all things for us, for His Glory, since before the world was!

(Joh 17:20-23) Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

This one who is in me and I in Him, I pray will hear these words from me, (Psa 119:35) **Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.**

We often think, the words “Who maketh us to differ” applies only to the time we were regenerated from death to Life, called from darkness into his marvelous light, called into the light of His Son Christ Jesus, but folks that is not correct. The Lord makes the difference in our lives every second of every minute, of every day! He turns our hearts as He has purposed them to be turned!

Did not God allow Jonah to run from Him? He sure did! Then what was purposed of God befell Jonah, and the Lord turned Him again. And again, and again!

“Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned” (Lam 5:21).

There is another who was sent to take a woman as their bride, and that one sent of God did so faithful, and gladly even though that woman seemed to be unclean, seemed to be an adulterer, seemed to be a sinner, seemed filthy and vile!

The brides name is “Church” the congregation of God, the called out! Those whom He has loved from before the foundation of the worlds!

The groom sent, is the Christ, Joseph called His name “Jesus” for he shall save His people from their sin.

In our eyes, the eyes of this world we are vile, we are filthy, we are adulterers, fornicators, sinners.

(Eph 2:2-3) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

But In the eyes of The Almighty God, we are beautifully dressed in the Robes of His Son’s Righteousness, white as the driven snow, sanctified- (Holy), righteous in every way!

(Eph 2:4-6) But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

The valley we walk through here on this journey called life is no more than a shadow of death to we who are the Bride of Christ, we who have been cleansed of our Sin! We who have been; **“made the righteousness of God in him”** (II Corin. 5:21), only a shadow because the death we deserve has been charged and laid upon the Groom sent of God!

How can that be so? **“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast”** (Eph 2:8-9).

Why? Why would God be so Gracious to a sinner Like me? **“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”** (Eph 2:7).

(Joh 17:1-4) These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

What was that work? “Salvation” The Lord was perfect in all he did as he walked this earth, “He knew no sin”, The Son’s faithfulness delighted the Father, “**And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased**” (Mar 1:9-11).

(Joh 17:5-6) And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

He has manifested, proclaimed, preached, expounded the name of the true and living God, in His person as he walked this earth, and by His saints. Before and after. “**For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God**” (1Co 2:2-5).

(Joh 17:7-8) Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

(Joh 6:45) It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

(Joh 17:9-11) I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

“keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me”,

Folks this is how Jospheh was able to put His worldly thoughts aside and do what God had appointed Him to do! He was kept by the power of God!

(1Pe 1:5) Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Eph 2:10 say's it clearly “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”.