

Be Mindful Of The Things Of God

A Sermon Delivered on Wednesday evening, April 13th, 2020, by
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At a time when our society is becoming increasingly hostile to biblical values, it's more important than ever to have the right lens through which to view things – the right worldview. Whether you are aware of it or not, everyone has a worldview. Our worldview is the filter through which we process life, and as Christians, it should be based on the uncompromised word of God – not on popular culture. Examining what's most important to you is key to becoming more mindful of the things of God. And we can only do that when we humbly submit to what is revealed in the word of God and refuse to let our feelings, wisdom, or opinions of others be our guide. You see, being mindful of the things of God enables you to walk in victory; it strengthens your faith and gives you something to stand on when opposition comes your way. This message shows you the importance of making God's word the final authority in your life.

What's on your mind? Are you mindful of the things of God, or the things of men?

²¹ *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.* ²² *Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"* ²³ *But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men". (Mat. 16:21-23)*

Christ said *"Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."* Jesus came onto this earth with a clear purpose (see Luke 4:18, Luke 19, John 3:16). There's a time between your life here and the time to be translated to the next life. There comes a time of departure. But between it, we are to fulfill God's purposes for our lives and use our time profitably. Think about what God is thinking about. That means be mindful of the things of God. I want to get into what God thinks about. What's on God's mind? Let's begin with what does God think about and what do you think about?

Jesus knew that He'd be betrayed, imprisoned, tortured, and killed, but He also knew that *"the hour will come that the Son of Man would be glorified"* (John 12:23 NKJV) [paraphrased]. He was at the doorstep of the dream, on the precipice of God's great plan. You see, Jesus was on a mission to tear down the great divide between God and man (2 Corinthians 5:18), to render sin powerless (Romans 6:6), to defeat death (1 Corinthians 15:55), and to set us free (Galatians 5:1). Nothing was going to stop Him from fulfilling His mission to rescue mankind. Heaven was going to break through; this was the moment and this was the hour! Look at what happened after He predicted His death? *Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"* Humans are fickle, impulsive, and easily swayed creatures. You see, just a short time earlier, the very person who said *"Son of the living God"* was incited to rebuke Jesus - *"Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!"* Jesus knew this would happen! He knew what would unfold. He knew He would be betrayed by a friend and then by the people He'd come for. He knew He would suffer greatly. He knew He would be subjected to a criminal's death, but He did it anyway because He loves us so deeply, completely and unconditionally!

The Bible says in Hebrews 12:2 (NIV) that *"For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame."* What joy? The joy of redeeming and restoring us to right relationship with God, to make us children of God, and to give us everlasting life in His kingdom! He did it for the joy of you! Psalm 18:19 (ESV) says, *"He brought me out into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me."* And because He delights in you and desires a relationship with you, He died on a cross and rose again to accomplish His purpose of saving us from our sins. *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of*

the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8 NKJV). Jesus descended from heaven in order to show us His love. He was the Servant Saviour to God’s creation by taking the form of a bondservant and coming to earth as a human being. Think about this, Jesus was in heaven, and He was free from all the suffering and pain that humanity was experiencing but He still chose to come and die for us. Not only did He experience death threats, He experienced death on the cross. Jesus limited His glory and ability so that He could be in our midst, and we could identify with Him. He humbled Himself and voluntarily chose to be obedient to God to the point of death, even death on a cross. He had us in mind the whole time. As we are going through the season of easter, we are to reflect on the fact that Jesus came to die for us. He loves us so much that He was obedient to God. He humbled Himself. Therefore, because Jesus made Himself a humble servant, obedient to the point of death, God has highly exalted Him.

He was the Servant Saviour for God’s glory. Not only did God exalt Him, but the Word says that God honoured Jesus’ name above all others. Everyone will bow and confess to the Servant Saviour who bowed to the will of the Father on our behalf. This is done for the glory of God. He came to die in our place, as a servant, and as a man. He was God but He humbled Himself to our level. How much more, as it says in the verses earlier that we are supposed to have the same mind as Christ as we love one another. We are to have the same mind as Christ because that’s how transformation begins. Christ’s mindset is that of a servant, a selfless and humble one. Transformation starts in the mind, and we must look to Christ as our example. Jesus, who was Himself God, never even had it in His mind to grab deity from God. As the divine Son of the Father, He chose to serve Him. Jesus served God by following His will. He is the Godman, the Servant Saviour. He is our Example. Think about the gratitude that comes with the knowledge that Jesus didn’t have to come, He had a choice, but He still came because of His great love for us. We should have that same mind to love others and be full of gratitude knowing how good our father is, that He came to save us. Jesus is our perfect Example. He is the one to look up to when it comes to how we are living. Let me ask you two questions: What are you mindful of? Are you mindful of the things of God or things of men? Jesus is the Servant Saviour. Although we can never match up to Him, He is our greatest Example. There are many Christians, who are examples of sacrificial servants who are working and pouring out their lives for the gospel. How are you living out your life? We are children of God capable of living out this life with being mindful of the things of God.

Father, we thank you for sending Your Son to take on the weight of our sins. Because of His sacrifice, we can experience His heavenly peace on earth. This week, remind us of what Jesus accomplished on the cross and the eternal life-change we can experience because of His resurrection. Help us to glorify You with every breath we take. Jesus, thank You for choosing to experience what it means to be human. At a great cost, You came to earth and sacrificed Yourself for us by dying on the cross. Thank You for loving us so fully! As we think about Your selfless sacrifice, fill us with Your love. Let Your love flow through us today so that we can joyfully serve others with humility. Amen!

Christ is the only saviour of the world. Have you received Him? If you will, please pray this prayer after me, saying every word from your heart...

Dear Lord, I recognise that I am a sinner and need to be saved.

I understand that Jesus died in my place and suffered the judgment of all of my sins.

I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and He is at the right hand of the father.

Lord Jesus, I surrender my Life to you.

Come and Live in my heart and be my Lord and saviour.

Thank You for saving me. Amen!