

Have Christ's Agenda (July 4, 2020 by Rev. Anthony Menzel)

Luke 10:38-42

38 Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. **39** And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at [k]Jesus' feet and heard His word. **40** But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

41 And [l]Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. **42** But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

We should always have time to sit and listen to the Lord Jesus...
Both through the Word and via the Holy Spirit...

You may think your contribution of belief, Bible study, putting the Word into action, prayer, ministry may seem small, but it's important to the Lord Jesus...

John 6:4-14

4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near. **5** Then Jesus lifted up *His* eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" **6** But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.

7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little."

8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, **9** "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?"

10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. **11** And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed *them* [b]to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. **12** So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." **13** Therefore they gathered *them* up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by

those who had eaten. **14** Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”

As the saying goes, “little becomes much when you place it in the hands...” of Jesus Christ.

***Don't worry about fame or power...

No one has to know your name...

You do not have to have any other fame...

If you have your name written down in Jesus Christ's book, that is the only fame you need...

Scripture: Luke 9:1

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.

We know the names of the 12 original apostles. However, there is no Biblical record of the 70 that the Lord Jesus sent to minister...

Scripture: Luke 10:1, 9

After these things the Lord appointed ^[a]seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. ² Then He said to them, “The harvest truly *is* great, but the laborers *are* few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. ³ Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves. ⁴ Carry neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals; and greet no one along the road. ⁵ But whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house.’ ⁶ And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on it; if not, it will return to you. ⁷ And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not go from house to house. ⁸ Whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you. ⁹ And heal the sick there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ ¹⁰ But whatever city you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into its streets and say, ¹¹ ‘The very dust of your city which clings to ^[b]us we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near you.’ ¹² ^[c]But I say to you that it will be more tolerable in that Day for Sodom than for that city.

However, those 70 had some of the most powerful ministries of anyone recorded in the whole Bible...

Scripture: Luke 10:17-20

¹⁷ Then the ^[e]seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”

¹⁸ And He said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. ¹⁹ Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. ²⁰ Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but ^[f]rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Again the best fame, the only fame we should strive for, the only power we should strive for, is the fame and power that comes from having our names in the Lamb’s Book of Life...

Scripture: Revelation 21:9-10, 27

⁹ Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came ^[i]to me and talked with me, saying, “Come, I will show you the ^[g]bride, the Lamb’s wife.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the ^[h]great city, the ^[j]holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

²⁷ But there shall by no means enter it anything ^[q]that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

***When we talk about having Christ’s agenda, it is very important that we realize that His agenda is often shorter than ours...

It has to do with the way we live our lives more than it has to do with what we accomplish...

For the Lord Jesus, the ends do not justify the means...

Scripture: Galatians 5:6

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-3

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body ^[a] to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

***We have to remember that sin can be defined as disobedience to God... What the Lord Jesus wants from us is simply for us to obey His commands...

Scripture: John 14:23-24

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.

To ensure that we go to heaven, we should obey the Lord Jesus... Salvation is free...We cannot earn it...However, once we are saved, the Lord Jesus has works for us to do...

Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. ¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Scripture: Luke 9:23-26

²³ Then He said to *them* all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross ^[b] daily, and follow Me. ²⁴ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. ²⁵ For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost? ²⁶ For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words,

of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His *own* glory, and *in His* Father's, and of the holy angels.

Obedience is more important than sacrifice...

Scripture: 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-11, 13-15, 17-33, 35

Samuel also said to Saul, "The LORD sent me to anoint you king over His people, over Israel. Now therefore, heed the voice of the words of the LORD. ² Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'I will punish Amalek *for* what he did to Israel, how he ambushed him on the way when he came up from Egypt. ³ Now go and attack^[a] Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and do not spare them. But kill both man and woman, infant and nursing child, ox and sheep, camel and donkey.' "

⁴ So Saul gathered the people together and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand men of Judah. ⁵ And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and lay in wait in the valley.

⁶ Then Saul said to the Kenites, "Go, depart, get down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them. For you showed kindness to all the children of Israel when they came up out of Egypt." So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites. ⁷ And Saul attacked the Amalekites, from Havilah all the way to Shur, which is east of Egypt. ⁸ He also took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword. ⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep, the oxen, the fatlings, the lambs, and all *that was* good, and were unwilling to utterly destroy them. But everything despised and worthless, that they utterly destroyed.

Saul Rejected as King

¹⁰ Now the word of the LORD came to Samuel, saying, ¹¹ "I greatly regret that I have set up Saul as king, for he has turned back from following Me, and has not performed My commandments." And it grieved Samuel, and he cried out to the LORD all night. ¹² So when Samuel rose early in the morning to meet Saul, it was told Samuel, saying, "Saul went to Carmel, and indeed, he set up a monument for himself; and he has gone on around, passed by, and gone down to Gilgal." ¹³ Then Samuel went to Saul, and Saul said to him, "Blessed *are* you of the LORD! I have performed the commandment of the LORD."

¹⁴ But Samuel said, “What then *is* this bleating of the sheep in my ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?”

¹⁵ And Saul said, “They have brought them from the Amalekites; for the people spared the best of the sheep and the oxen, to sacrifice to the LORD your God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed.”

¹⁶ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Be quiet! And I will tell you what the LORD said to me last night.”

And he said to him, “Speak on.”

¹⁷ So Samuel said, “When you *were* little in your own eyes, *were* you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel? ¹⁸ Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, ‘Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are ^[b]consumed.’ ¹⁹ Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the ^[c]spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?”

²⁰ And Saul said to Samuel, “But I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and gone on the mission on which the LORD sent me, and brought back Agag king of Amalek; I have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. ²¹ But the people took of the plunder, sheep and oxen, the best of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice to the LORD your God in Gilgal.”

²² So Samuel said:

“Has the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices,
As in obeying the voice of the LORD?
Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice,
And to heed than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion *is* as the sin of ^[d]witchcraft,
And stubbornness *is* as iniquity and idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of the LORD,
He also has rejected you from *being* king.”

²⁴ Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned, for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD and your words, because I feared the people and obeyed their voice. ²⁵ Now therefore, please pardon my sin, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD.”

²⁶ But Samuel said to Saul, “I will not return with you, for you have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you from being king over Israel.”

²⁷ And as Samuel turned around to go away, *Saul* seized the edge of his robe, and it tore. ²⁸ So Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, *who is better than you*. ²⁹ And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He *is* not a man, that He should relent.”

³⁰ Then he said, “I have sinned; yet honor me now, please, before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may worship the LORD your God.” ³¹ So Samuel turned back after Saul, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

³² Then Samuel said, “Bring Agag king of the Amalekites here to me.” So Agag came to him cautiously.

And Agag said, “Surely the bitterness of death is past.”

³³ But Samuel said, “As your sword has made women childless, so shall your mother be childless among women.” And Samuel hacked Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah, and Saul went up to his house at Gibeah of Saul. ³⁵ And Samuel went no more to see Saul until the day of his death. Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul, and the LORD regretted that He had made Saul king over Israel.

***Whenever we see a commandment in the Bible, we need to try to do it...

Scripture: **James 4:17**

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

There are so many simple commands throughout the Bible...

One of the most important reasons for us to study the Bible is to get to know those commands so that we can show the Lord Jesus at least some of the love He deserves by doing what He wants...

A wonderful thing about the commandments of the Lord is that they are generally simple to understand...

Scripture: **1 John 5:2-3**

² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. ³ For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

The Holy Spirit will give us the strength to do everything that the Lord Jesus wants us to do...

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, 25-33

¹² Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. ¹³ No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God *is* faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to ^[d]bear *it*.

Flee from Idolatry

¹⁴ Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry.

²⁵ Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake; ²⁶ for "the earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness."

²⁷ If any of those who do not believe invites you *to dinner*, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake. ²⁸ But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; ^[i]for "the earth *is* the LORD's, and all its fullness." ²⁹ "Conscience," I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another *man's* conscience? ³⁰ But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for *the food* over which I give thanks?

³¹ Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. ³² Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, ³³ just as I also please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking my own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.

In the midst of wanting to do great things for the Lord Jesus, we cannot forget other simple commandments that tell us how to live our lives, regardless of the goals we are trying to achieve...

In the end, living our lives Biblically well, living according to how the Lord Jesus wants us to live our lives, ultimately determines our eternal success...

Scripture: Philippians 4:6-7

⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:11-21

¹¹ Therefore ^[b]comfort each other and ^[c]edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Various Exhortations

¹² And we urge you, brethren, to recognize those who labor among you, and are over you in the Lord and ^[d]admonish you, ¹³ and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. Be at peace among yourselves.

¹⁴ Now we ^[e]exhort you, brethren, warn those who are ^[f]unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all. ¹⁵ See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies. ²¹ Test all things; hold fast what is good. ²² Abstain from every form of evil.

When it is hard for us to obey, then we have to seek the Lord Jesus...

Remember that God wants us to ask Him for blessings...

Asking the Father for the things in the name of Jesus Christ is yet another commandment in Scripture...

Scripture: John 16:23-24

²³ "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

Prayer can be defined as communication with God. It includes asking for things as well as thanking, praising, and telling the Holy Trinity how much we love them...

The Lord Jesus wants us to spend a lot of time in prayer because He ultimately made us so that He could love us and be loved by us...

Scripture: **Jeremiah 2:32**

Can a virgin forget her ornaments,

Or a bride her attire?

Yet My people have forgotten Me days without number.