

**Make the Lord Jesus Feel Good**  
**(By Rev. Anthony Menzel, March 21, 2021)**

I mentioned this during last week's sermon...

But I felt led by the Lord Jesus to go at least a little deeper into this topic of changing our focus from getting things from the Lord to making Him feel good...

The first question I feel led to ask is...

Why do you pray?

Do you pray to get closer to the Holy Trinity, or is your main reason for praying simply to get other blessings from Him?

People often lose their peace because they want things and even other blessings, like positions and personal relationships, more than they want the Lord Jesus...

What is the key to having peace?

It is not meditation...

It is not money...

It is being focused on the Holy Trinity...

**Isaiah 26:3-4**

You will keep *him* in perfect peace,  
*Whose mind is stayed on You,*  
Because he trusts in You.

<sup>4</sup> Trust in the LORD forever,  
For in YAH, the LORD, *is* <sup>[b]</sup>everlasting strength.

If you lose that focus, you lose everything, for you cannot enjoy your other blessings without peace...

Do you know that you should have a date with the Lord Jesus every day?

**Revelation 3:20**

<sup>20</sup> Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

The best part of that date is not even talking to Him or getting instructions for your service in His Kingdom...

The best part is just listening to Him...

### **Luke 10:38-42**

<sup>38</sup> Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at <sup>[k]</sup>Jesus' feet and heard His word. <sup>40</sup> 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."

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

Take time just to worship the Lord Jesus...

And what is worship?

Worship is simply to adore Him...To pour out all your love on Him...

Or at least as much love as you know how to pour...

### **Matthew 28:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> And <sup>[b]</sup>as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

This is another passage that confirms to me that the Lord Jesus likes our hugs and kisses...

So I can send Him hugs when I am worshipping Him, which is simply when I am pouring my love out on Him...

\*\*\*Another question to ask ourselves is why do we live?

We may say that we live to be there for our families...

However, what happens when our loved ones move away or disappoint us?

We have to remember that our children are on loan from the Lord...

In many if not most cases they will eventually leave us to start their own homes when they grow up...

### **1 Samuel 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> So Hannah arose after they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat by the doorpost of the <sup>[c]</sup>tabernacle of the LORD. <sup>10</sup> And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the LORD and <sup>[d]</sup>wept in anguish. <sup>11</sup> Then she made a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

### **1 Samuel 2:18-21**

<sup>18</sup> But Samuel ministered before the LORD, *even as* a child, wearing a linen ephod. <sup>19</sup> Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring *it* to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. <sup>20</sup> And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, “The LORD give you descendants from this woman for the <sup>[g]</sup>loan that was given to the LORD.” Then they would go to their own home.

<sup>21</sup> And the LORD visited<sup>[h]</sup> Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the LORD.

This is confirmation that children are blessings that are on loan...

We do not own them...

We are to take care of them and guide them so that they can be what God created them to be...

I think one of the biggest mistakes a parent can make is trying to force their child to be what they wanted to be or what they want them to be instead of helping their child to discover what God created them to be...

\*\*\*So if raising children is only part of our mission on this earth, it is not an emotionally safe practice to make our main reason for living to take care of other people...

## Philippians 1:21-30

<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. <sup>22</sup> But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I <sup>[d]</sup>cannot tell. <sup>23</sup> <sup>[e]</sup>For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. <sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. <sup>25</sup> And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, <sup>26</sup> that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

### Striving and Suffering for Christ

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup> and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but <sup>[f]</sup>to you of salvation, and that from God. <sup>29</sup> For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup> having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

The main purpose of our lives should be Christ...

We should seek to get closer and closer to Him...

We should seek to please Him...

We should seek to do His Will...

I really like what this passage says about letting our conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, which means the Good News about Jesus Christ...

It also mentions suffering for Christ's sake...

So part of our purpose in life is to minister to others, as is indicated in verses 24-26...

Another part of our purpose is witness or tell nonbelievers about the Lord Jesus...

An important part of this witness will be the example we give with our lives, and this witness will include suffering at times...

Another part of this witness is to put not only the Lord Jesus but also others first...

### **Mark 9:33-37**

<sup>33</sup> Then He came to Capernaum. And when He was in the house He asked them, "What was it you <sup>1</sup>disputed among yourselves on the road?" <sup>34</sup> But they kept silent, for on the road they had disputed among themselves who *would be the* greatest. <sup>35</sup> And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all." <sup>36</sup> Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, <sup>37</sup> "Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me."

When this comes to our spiritual and our biological or adopted children, that also may include letting them go...

That is not always easy...

The fact that some day we may have to let our children go is yet another reason why it is so important to savor every moment that we have with our families as much as we can...

### **Acts 13:1-3**

Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." <sup>3</sup> Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away.

\*\*\*When we talk about focusing on the Lord Jesus instead of on things, one thing I would like to mention is that I intend to continue to try to be a good steward of the blessings that the Lord Jesus gives me...

I do not intend to be wasteful...I do not intend to spend too much...

I do not intend to co-sign for other people unless God writes to me on a cloud...I would rather give to people than loan to them or give them access to my credit...

### **Proverbs 6:1-11**

My son, if you become <sup>[a]</sup>surety for your friend,  
*If* you have <sup>[b]</sup>shaken hands in pledge for a stranger,  
<sup>2</sup> You are snared by the words of your mouth;  
You are taken by the words of your mouth.  
<sup>3</sup> So do this, my son, and deliver yourself;  
For you have come into the hand of your friend:  
Go and humble yourself;  
Plead with your friend.  
<sup>4</sup> Give no sleep to your eyes,  
Nor slumber to your eyelids.  
<sup>5</sup> Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand *of the hunter*,  
And like a bird from the hand of the <sup>[c]</sup>fowler.

### **The Folly of Indolence**

<sup>6</sup> Go to the ant, you sluggard!  
Consider her ways and be wise,  
<sup>7</sup> Which, having no <sup>[d]</sup>captain,  
Overseer or ruler,  
<sup>8</sup> Provides her <sup>[e]</sup>supplies in the summer,  
*And* gathers her food in the harvest.  
<sup>9</sup> How long will you <sup>[f]</sup>slumber, O sluggard?  
When will you rise from your sleep?  
<sup>10</sup> A little sleep, a little slumber,  
A little folding of the hands to sleep—  
<sup>11</sup> So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler,  
And your need like an armed man.

However, I am coming to the realization that at this point in my life, I do not have many years left to work at my secular job...

No matter how hard I try to be a good steward of my finances, I may have to depend on some kind of government assistance, such as a pension or other aid, in the next 10 years...

If the pension system fails, I may have to downsize if I am no longer able to work at that time...

Considering that I have two Master's degrees and have made a decent salary, this outcome for my finances is disappointing...

However, in the midst of life's disappointments, should we still be happy?

Thankfully, the Bible tells us that we should...

### **Luke 12:13-34**

<sup>13</sup> Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

<sup>14</sup> But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?" <sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of <sup>[c]</sup>covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

<sup>16</sup> Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. <sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' <sup>18</sup> So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. <sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, *and* be merry.'" <sup>20</sup> But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

<sup>21</sup> "So *is* he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

### **Do Not Worry**

<sup>22</sup> Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. <sup>23</sup> Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. <sup>24</sup> Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? <sup>25</sup> And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? <sup>26</sup> If you then are not able to do *the* least, why <sup>[d]</sup>are you anxious for the rest? <sup>27</sup> Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not <sup>[e]</sup>arrayed like one of these. <sup>28</sup> If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and

tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe you, O you* of little faith?

<sup>29</sup> “And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. <sup>30</sup> For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. <sup>31</sup> But seek [t]he kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

<sup>32</sup> “Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. <sup>33</sup> Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. <sup>34</sup> For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

This passage teaches us so much...

- 1) Our focus should not be on material things...  
They are blessings, but our life – our happiness and our peace – should not depend on them.
- 2) Our focus should be on seeking God’s Kingdom. If we seek to be in God’s Kingdom and if we seek to live right before the Lord Jesus and thereby seek His righteousness, then God will take care of giving us everything we need.
- 3) It is so clear from this passage that our focus should not be on material things that the Lord Jesus tells us that we should sell our possessions so that we can give to the poor and thus have treasure in heaven...

Part of Matthew Chapter 6 parallels this passage...

### **Matthew 6:33**

<sup>33</sup> But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Here we see clearly that our focus is seeking both the Kingdom of God and living right before the Lord Jesus...