Last week we explored the passage she just quoted - 1 John 2:15-17.

Where God inspired the Apostle John to write a “prescription” for living “right-side up” in this “upside down kingdom” we temporarily live in.

The reason God gave this to John was because not long after Jesus died, was resurrected, ascended back to heaven and promised to return…

Some Christians began listening to unbelievers who were saying that Jesus was just a good man… that they should just “get over it, ”…

“He ain’t coming back”… get your head out of the clouds and get back to practical living in the real world…

The Bible briefly mentions such a person who did turn back in 2 Timothy 4:10, named Demas… (it may be short for Demetrius)…

We don’t know much about him other than Paul’s reference to him in Philemon 1:24 as a “co-worker” in the Lord’s work.

For that reason, I picture Paul writing about Demas 2 Timothy 4:10 with tears streaming down his face… not because Paul lost a helper…

But because the enemy had succeeded again… at using pleasure, power and possessions to draw one of God’s children away from their ministry purpose that He saved and gifted them for… Ephesians 2:10 reminds us

Last week we explored Jesus statement “you can’t love God and money/anything else… meaning don’t try juggling your love for God and the world”… because our service to Him (which impacts eternity) will suffer…

Which makes sense when you think about it… Imagine with me that you created your own car… you built it to accomplish your purposes here…

but the darn thing developed a mind/will of it’s own… and it decided it was only going to serve you 1 hour a week… or whenever it felt up to going…

* Or it would only go if it liked where you wanted to go…
* Or as long as your purpose for going was important enough to warrant/justify coming out the garage and making the trip…
* Or as long as another car gave you permission to go…
* Or as long as the music being played during the trip was the kind IT liked.

How would you view your creation… Slightly self-centered, don’t you think?

What would you do with your stubborn creation? You’d love it… of course… because you made it…

But you would have to sacrifice greatly to locate the defective on-board computer and replace it with a self-less one, so you can accomplish what needs to get done…

Which is what happened when Jesus died, resurrected and ascended… sending His Holy Spirit to replace the believers “old nature”…

Jesus says devote (love/sanctify) yourself to God “full-time” and let the temporary pleasures, power & possessions of this world take a back-seat… So that God can accomplish the ETERNAL purpose for which He created you…

If it sounds like God is asking an awful lot from His Creation, let’s take a closer look at what He promises to reward His “good & faithful” servants with…

He promises to fulfill our desire for:

1. Power in His Eternal Kingdom.

Matthew 20:26-28 (Jesus dealing with disciples seeking power)

Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great (Greek -MEGAS) among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave— 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served (ministered to), but to serve (minister), and to give his life as a ransom (redemption) for many.”

Eternal power happens thru Agape love… Loving God & serving Him sacrificially not out of our abundance… where there is no real cost to us…

Jesus says that power isn’t having others serve you, but using the power that God gives you to serve others ahead of yourself.

Luke 19:15-19 (Parable of the Minas – *3 months worth of wages*)

15 The king (Jesus) returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given money, in order to find out what they had gained with it. (Greek meaning - To see how they had been occupying themselves…)

16 “The first one came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned ten more.’

17 “‘Well done, my good and faithful servant!’ his master replied. ‘Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities.’

18 “The second came and said, ‘Sir, your mina has earned five more.’

19 “His master answered, ‘You take charge of five cities.’

The reality of this parable is that it wasn’t the mina that did the earning… it was the servant devoted to the King.

And we know what happened to the last servant, who used their free will to “opt out”of serving by hiding what was given to him… until the king returned, saying he knew the king to be hard a man, “reaping what He did not sow”…

That may have been a good reason to sacrifice & serve the King… Amen?

But a life focused on self, blinds one to those realities...

Thru that servant Jesus addresses the “extra humble”, (which the Bible calls (false humility)… folks claiming they don’t want or deserve any reward or POWER in heaven… so they hide what God gives them and focus on power, pleasure & possessions until He returns…

Can you see how such an attitude/mindset actually exerts Power/control over the King’s will?

Jesus says to His “good and faithful servants”, the King has plans for you to continue serving Him during His Millennial (1000 year) reign by putting you in charge of one or more cities during His Millennial Reign…

He will give us all that we need to succeed in serving Him both here and there… ALL THAT IS REQUIRED IS OUR PASSIONATE DESIRE FOR HIS WILL TO BE DONE ABOVE OUR OWN…

Secondly, He offers the reward of:

1. Possessions in His Eternal Kingdom. (We’ll have stuff!!)

Matthew 6:19-21

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

After Jesus tried to help the “Rich Young Ruler understand that principle..

Matthew 19:16-22, Peter asked Jesus in V27-30;

27 “We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?”

28 Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things (New Heaven and New Earth), when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

29 And everyone who has (sacrificially) left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life.

That’s 100 houses, hundreds of brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, wives, children, and fields waiting for us to enjoy for eternity! That sounds more than fair for our temporary sacrifice here!! Unless this world is all one has to look forward to…

V30 But many who are first (here) will be last (there), and many who are last (here) will be first (there). More evidence that we are living in an upside-down Kingdom…

Lastly, He offers us the reward of:

1. Pleasure in His Eternal Kingdom

Psalm 16:11

11 You make known to me the path of life;

you will fill me with joy in your presence,

with eternal pleasures at your right hand.

Sacrificially loving pleasure above God, serves only to squeeze out one’s love for the Father & doing His will.

Everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father.

It just keeps us isolated from him and His purpose… but whoever serves God above all that… is set for eternity.

Please stand as we close this morning…

* Are you or have you allowed a desire for POWER/CONTROL to:

Keep you from church?

Keep you from serving the Lord & doing His will and sharing Christ?

Do you let it keep you from giving sacrificially to the Lord?

If so, you may be suffering from “pride of life”

* Are you or have you allowed a desire for possessions/money to do any of those same things?

You may be suffering from “lust of the eyes”.

* Are you or have you allowed a desire for worldly pleasure to:

Keep you from church?

Keep you from serving the Lord & doing His will and sharing Christ?

Do you let it keep you from giving sacrificially to the Lord?

You may have… “Lust of the flesh”

Here’s what I can tell you, there is a cure… God loves you, He accepts you, and He will forgive anyone who will repent and seek Him today…

If the Holy Spirit has spoken to you and you know you need to get on the right page with God…,

I invite you to come NOW and kneel at an altar of prayer and settle it with Jesus today…

Life is too short, Heaven is forever… make the decision Jesus would want you to make.

Please come NOW as we sing: Is your all on the altar

For those who have devoted themselves to serving the King, I have given you a tool in your worship folder to help you succeed.