

Space, Time, & Grace

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby/Parent Dedication 3rd - Jason/Jessa Stoneburner. Alijah Charles. Aniela/ Aiden.
- B. Slide3,4 Ladies Summer Series - Maureen Schaffer, 1st Love Calvary. *Stage 4 cancer.*
- C. Children at Risk - Dave Snow, Dream Center LE will be sharing on their org. 3-5pm
- D. Prayer Night - 1st Sun nights of the month. 6:30-7:30. Nation/world. Start simple.
- E. Also a big TY CM from Tyler & Mical Andrews...they are *fully funded* for the year, to go to Burma. Date is set now for Nov.1.

II. Slide5 Intro:

- A. Title: *Space, Time & Grace*. Outline: *Resurrection. Reformation. Familial Clarification*
- B. Three things covered in this last portion of ch.12.
 1. Some Pharisees wish to see a sign from Jesus to prove His authority. The only sign they will receive is *Jesus' resurrection*, which He refers to *metaphorically*.
 2. Jesus describes the *evil and adulterous generation* in terms of a disembodied spirit who returns to its host with *greater severity*.
 3. Jesus' direct opposition to the religious establishment of His day drew the attention and concern of His **family**. Jesus will then define *His extended family* as those who **do** the will of His heavenly Father.

III. Slide6 RESURRECTION (38-42)

- A. (38) *We want a sign* - What a slam. He had done so many. Some in front of their noses. To ask for a sign was evidence of *unbelief*.
- B. *Resurrection*, the 1 sign to be shown. *Resurrection, the hinge on which our faith swings*.
 1. If **Love** put Jesus on the cross on **Friday**. And **Faith** being the evidence of things not seen kept Him in the grave on **Saturday**. Then **Hope** is the full assurance of *a Resurrected Jesus* on **Sun**.
- C. *Similarities to the prophet Jonah?*
 1. Like Jonah they cast our Lord overboard.

2. The sacrifice of Jonah calmed the sea for the mariners. Our Lord's death made peace for us.
 3. Both were 3 days/3 nights in the heart/center of the earth.
 4. Jonah's ministry was certified by his restoration from the sea, **so** is our Lord's ministry attested by His rising from the dead.
 5. As Jonah came back from his burial out at sea & commanded the attention of all Nineveh; **So** does the risen Savior demand & deserve the obedient faith of all to whom His message comes.
 6. Jonah's rescue from the great fish was a sign that the prophet and his message were **from God**. **Similarly**, the ultimate sign validating Jesus would be His triumph over death.
- D. (41) The Ninevites **repented**, **while** the Jews were *hardened*.
1. These heathens perceived...what Israel did not understand.
 2. **Rise up** - These men of Nineveh were not dead in Jesus mind. He knew them & promised their part in the res. of the just, as swift witness against those who heard Jesus himself & yet refused His testimony.
- E. **Greater than Jonah, How?**
1. In His person, Jonah was a mere man. **In His Obedience**. Jesus actually died. Jesus rose from His own power. **Jonah only ministered to one city, while Jesus gave His life for the whole world**. Jesus was greater in His Love, for Jonah did not love the people of Nineveh, he wanted them to die. **Jonah's message was one of wrath, Jesus message was of grace**.
- F. So the resurrection is **THE** Sign...**yet** He supplements it w/one more.
- G. **Sign #2 Wisdom** (42)
- H. **Sheba** - SW Arabia, **now** Yemen.
1. **The Queen** traveled over 1000 miles to hear Solomon's wisdom. **The Jews** didn't have to travel at all, He came to them, & they wouldn't hear them.
 - a) Therefore great will be their judgment when she will be raised as a witness against them.
- I. **Jesus Greater than Solomon, How?**

1. Solomon had wisdom from God. Jesus **is** the Wisdom of God.
2. Solomon was a great king. Jesus **is** the King of Kings.
 - a) Jesus was greater in His *wisdom, wealth, & works*.
- J. **Imagine** sitting at Solomon's table 2 Chron.9:3,4 *And when the queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, 4 the food on his table, the seating of his servants, the service of his waiters and their apparel, his cupbearers and their apparel, and his entryway (Wilson's Arch/Rabbi's Tunnel) by which he went up to the house of the Lord, there was no more spirit in her.*
 1. **Now, imagine** sitting at Jesus' table, hearing His wisdom, seeing His mansion, sharing of His blessings. **NO COMPARISON.**
- K. **The Citizens of Nineveh** will witness against the rulers of Israel, **for they repented** at Jonah's preaching.
- L. **The Queen of Sheba** will also witness against them. **She traveled a long distance to hear** Sol.'s wisdom, **yet** the religious rulers rejected the wisdom of Christ who was in their very midst. **[they repented...she heard]**
 1. The greater the **opportunity** the greater the **judgment**.

IV. REFORMATION (43-45) *Self-Reformation*

- A. This man's life was changed for the **better**; **but** his life was still **empty**.
 1. I remember my self-reformation right before I got saved. I quit smoking pot for a month. I felt **better** **but** still felt **empty**.
- B. The Pharisee's were proud of *their clean houses*, **but** their heart's were empty.
 1. **Are you proud of how you've cleaned your house?** Maybe you've started paying **all** your taxes, & stopped kicking your dog. **Or** maybe you stopped cutting people off on the freeway when they do it to you. **Or** maybe cut out **most** cuss words from your vocabulary. Congratulations...you'll be the most moral person in hell.
 2. It is not enough to *clean house*, we must **invite in the right tenant**.
- C. **I will return** - See, the demon doesn't mind leaving the *madly immoral* to become *decent & orderly*. **Why?** Because w/this self-clean-up-job comes **self-pride**, "*look what I've done!*"
 1. **A good moral person can just as easy be his slave.**

a) The crafty spirit takes **the key** of the house w/him, for he means to return.

D. Empty, swept, and put in order -

1. Have you **emptied yourself** of *a certain relationship* that was pulling you down?
2. Have you **swept yourself clean** of certain *uglier sins*?
3. Have you **put in order** a certain set of *new moralities* to uphold?

a) Augustine well said, *Good works, as they are called, in sinners are nothing but splendid sin.*

E. See the problem was he was **found empty** - no one else had taken possession of it.

F. (45) 1 + 7 others?...talk about *8 is enough*, Wow!

G. Mere **religion**, or **reformation** will not save...there must be **regeneration**, the **receiving** of Christ into the heart.

1. **Rebirth inwardly** not **Reform outwardly**.

H. Note: same subject, *wicked generation* (vs.39 *adulterous gen*).

V. FAMILIAL CLARIFICATION (46-50) *We Are Family*

A. His **Earthly Family**

B. They *intruded* upon His Holy service, *i.e. while He was still talking to the multitudes.*

1. Jesus is not negating the importance of the **natural family**, but He is emphasizing the *greater importance* of the **spiritual family**.
2. **Commitment to Jesus and His cause** is a **higher loyalty** than **familial loyalty**.
3. *Never, never* interfere with **Supreme Matters**. **He must** be about His Fathers business. **You must** be about your Fathers business & *none should dissuade*.

C. Marks account same context 3:20,21, *One time Jesus entered a house, & the crowds began to gather again. Soon he and his disciples couldn't even find time to eat. 21 When his family heard what was happening, they tried to take him away. "He's out of his mind," they said.*

1. His mother & brothers did love him, but they thought He was a little bit fanatical...kind of...well...crazy. Fixated w/faith...over-enthusiastic.

a) I think His diagnosis today would be *obsessive-compulsive*.

2. He is out of His mind, **a Messiah complex!**

3. I believe this **family intervention** is what they really thought would be best for Him. He's throwing away security & safety...we must take charge of him. A *well-meaning, but mistaken* action.
4. They thought...*This religious fervor was going to ruin His health.*
 - a) *Jesus don't you know, you could lose your life doing this.*
 - b) 1st He gave up a decent career in the carpentry union. **Then**, look at the posse He's running with. We hear He sometimes stay up all night, w/no sleep. And, He seems to be given to extremes. *It's ok to be devout, but NOT fanatical!*
5. **Ps: Jn.7:1-9** tells us that Jesus' brothers were **still** not believing in Him, even later in His ministry.

D. His **Eternal Family**

- E. All believers in Jesus are of *the Royal Family*.
- F. **Note** the Invitation again, **Whoever!**
- G. We say, "*you can chose your friends, but you can't chose your family.*" Well the Lord did, He chose His family. *He chose me.*
 1. Are you a **whoever** who has received the Lord as *Tenant of your house?* And now as a result are **doing** the will of the Father?
- H. There are **3 things** Jesus tips us off to in vss. 41,42,50. The Ninevites **repented**, the Queen **heard** the wisdom, & the eternal family **does** the will of God. **Repent, hear, do.**
- I. **Family Perks:** The Lord has provided for your needs. He has protected you from harm. He has adopted you. And He has given you His name.
- J. **What happened to Jesus' family?**
 1. *Then [the disciples] went back to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives...They all continued praying together with some women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Jesus' brothers.* Acts 1:12,14.
 2. **What a change!** The ones who mocked him **now** worship him. The ones who **pitied** him **now** pray for him.
 3. **What if Jesus had disowned them? Or worse still, what if he'd suffocated his family with his demand for change? He didn't.** He instead gave them **space, time, & grace**^(Title). **And because he did, they changed.** How much did they change?

a) 1 brother became an **apostle** (Gal.1:19) & others became **missionaries** (1 Cor.9:5).

K. Jesus **wasn't severing** family ties.

1. On the cross he was very concerned about **His mother**.
2. **Later**, His ½ brother **James** would be the leader in the Jerusalem church.
His ½ brother **Jude** would write his book.
3. **He meant**, there is a **deeper kinship** than flesh & blood, a **spiritual** kinship which is characterized by **obedience to the Father**.
 - a) Of course **obedience** doesn't *originate* relationship w/God (**faith does that**) but **obedience** is a **sign of it**. (Kent Hughes)
4. Jesus describes **the New family**, which is far superior to the human family... **for it lasts longer** (eternal); **it's stronger**; **it's more satisfying**.
 - a) The highest relationships of life are **spiritual**, not physical.
 - b) You've witnessed this. You meet someone, you find out they are born-again. You talk about *Christ, ministry, His love*. **And** you sense that warm wonderful feeling of **family**.
 - c) Do you have more in common with your **spiritual** family **than** w/your **earthly** family?
5. Will you humble yourself and **come and sit** as Jesus feet?
 - a) Isn't that a whole lot better than, "*try harder; do more; stop that; you don't measure up; do it better.*"
 - b) Isn't it a whole lot better to hear, "**Believe in Jesus Christ; just sit at His feet; learn of Him; take Him for who He is; accept His ministry... & you will become an Insider.**"
 - (1) Picture Jesus saying this adage, "One door & only one, **yet its sides are two; I am on the Inside** on which side are **you**?"