

The Compass Isn't Broke

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. As of today CM...we are a debt free church :)
- B. Prayer: God, in *creation* we see Your **hand**, and in *redemption* we see Your **heart**.

II. Slide2 Intro: The Compass Isn't Broke

- A. Slide3a Ash Wednesday is today - its starts 40 days of fasting & the Lent season (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. Its name is from the practice of placing ashes (from Palm branches) on the forehead as a celebration and reminder of *human mortality*, and as a sign of mourning and repentance to God.
 - 1. Similar to **sackcloth and ashes** in the OT.
 - 2. It's a day to reflect on the state of your heart and mind. A day to **take stock** of your relationship with God, and to accept the **grace** that He freely offers.
 - a) What do you need to **confess** with this *ash-laden* season of your life?
 - 3. Remember, it starts with ash Wed, but ends with **resurrection!**
- B. Here in 8:54-66 we have a group pleading together for **their country**. This is how to pray for a **nation**. This is how to pray for **yourself**.
 - 1. Renewed **obedience** is essential to being a *forgiven* child of God.
- C. From last week, Solomon is still up on the Temple Mount, standing out front of the Temple dedicating the first & brand new temple itself.
 - 1. Read vs. 54,55.
 - 2. There is an important aspect to Holistic Worship
 - a) Slide3b Holistic = relating to a *whole*: including or involving all of something. [Holistic emphasizes treatment of *the whole person*, including **body, mind, emotions, spirit**]
 - b) The Greek Philosopher **Plato** said, The cure of many diseases is unknown to the physicians of Hellas (old name for Greece), because they are ignorant of the whole, which ought to be studied also; for the part can never be well unless the whole is well...

This is the great error of our day in the treatment of the human body, that the physicians separate the **soul** from the **body**.

- c) Slide3c Thus **worship** is applied to **all** of a Christians' life. **Everything** in our life should be an act of worship.
- (1) We can have an *awe inspiring* response to worship. Or, an *intelligent response. emotional. grateful. instrumental. vocal. physical. a ready response. An appropriate response. supernatural (enemy flee). personal. corporate. revitalized. a giving response. a focused response.*
- (2) Here we see Solomon's **physical** response - true worship may cause us to *bow, kneel, stand, clap, lift hands, sway* (i.e. change posture).

D. Slide3d Notice Solomon's emphasis/theme on **the heart** in this chapter...

1. **Each one knows** his own heart (38). **God knows** the heart (39). We are to **return to God** with all of our heart (48). **God must incline our hearts** to obedience (58). God wants each of us to have a **loyal heart** (61).
2. So I thought a great way to go through this chapter was to make it personal to **our heart**. We'll be stopping & having *personal prayer time* after each point.
 - a) Allowing ourselves *deep reflective thought. Examination. Inspection. Observation.*
 - b) **Not christian mysticism**. I'm thinking more like Mary when she *pondered these things in her heart*. (to meditate for answers)
 - c) Let's start w/ **What do you need to confess with this ash-laden season of your life?**

III. Slide4 **BLESSING (54-61)**

- A. Slide5 **PEACE** (56a) - **Blessed be the Lord, who has given rest to His people Israel according to all He promised.**
1. **Rest** - *resting place, a new dwelling place.*
 - a) **Is there a rest/peace promised to us also in the NT?** [my peace I give you. I will give you rest]
 2. ***Prayer/contemplation:** Do you feel at rest/at peace...with your salvation? your soul? your walk? - With your love for God? With His love for you?

- B. **Slide6 PROMISE** (56b) - according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of **all His good promise**, which He **promised** through His servant Moses.
1. Msg, **Not one** of all those good and wonderful words that he spoke through **Moses has *misfired***. [Dan/I. Handgun course/turning timed targets. [ammo/fail to discharge](#). Type1 malf]
 2. A man who lived in northern Michigan went for a walk in a **dense forest** so immense that a person could easily get lost. When darkness began to settle in, he decided it was time to head home. He was used to being in the woods and had a keen sense of direction, so he didn't bother to look at his **compass**. After walking for a long time, however, he decided he'd better check to make sure he was going in the right direction. He was surprised when the compass indicated he was going **west** - not east as he had thought. But the man was so sure of his own sense of direction that he thought **there must be something wrong with the compass**. He was about to throw it away in disgust when the thought came to him: **My compass has never lied to me, maybe I should believe it**. The man eventually found his way out of the woods and arrived home safely because **he trusted his compass and *didn't rely on himself***.
 - a) Solomon told the congregation of Israel that *not one word of all His good promise had failed*. That assurance still stands. What God promises, He performs.
His instructions are always trustworthy. He will never lead us astray. R W De Haan
 3. ***Prayer/contemplation:** Do you really believe God has never had a misfire? Has He ever broken a promise to you?
- C. **Slide7 PRESENCE** (57) - May the Lord our God **be with us**, as He was with our fathers. **May He not leave us nor forsake us**. [Heb.13:5, Deut.31:6, Josh 1:5]
1. Mother Theresa's mom was at first dead-set against her leaving to become a sister, **then** realizing this was what God wanted for her & for herself said, **"Put your hand in his hand and *walk alone with Him*."**
 - a) We're surrounded by many people **& yet** our calling is really lived out *alone w/ Jesus*
 2. ***Prayer/contemplation:** Do you really feel God is *with* you? How close would you say He feels tonight? Do you feel there was a time He forsook you?...Be honest with Him. Are you afraid of being **alone** w/just God?

- D. **Slide8 PRACTICE** (58) - that He may **incline our hearts** to Himself, to **walk** in all His ways, and to **keep** His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, which He commanded our fathers.
1. NLT, May He give us the desire to do His will in everything and to obey all the commands, decrees, and regulations that he gave our ancestors.
 2. Msg, *May he keep us centered and devoted to him, following the life path he has cleared, watching the signposts, walking at the pace and rhythms he laid down for our ancestors.* [*also* found Psa 119:36. Jer.31:33]
 3. *Prayer/contemplation: Thank Him for giving you even the desire to do His will. Where do you specifically need His help in your Christian walk? In your life today, what area do you need God to help u *incline your heart to obedience*?
- E. **Slide9 PRAYER** (59) - And may **these words of mine**, with which I have made **supplication** before the Lord, be near the Lord our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant & the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require
1. *As each day requires* ESV - The NT also emphasizes the idea that God provides His people with what they need **for that day**, *i.e.* Lord's Prayer.
 2. *Prayer/contemplation: Since *supplication* is from the root *supply*, what do you need the Lord to supply for **you**? your family? your work/school? your ministry?
- F. **Slide10 PURPOSE** (60) - that all the peoples of the earth may know that **the Lord is God**; there is no other. [*yahweh is Elohim*]
1. Actually there is *another*...you! Each & every time you say, *no Lord. We know better to not have any graven image, but we take the place of God when we crawl back up on the throne in our lives.*
 2. *Prayer/contemplation: Confess being in control of areas of your life. Poor out your heart to Him that He is your God. Communicate your love to Him.
- G. **Slide11 PERSEVERANCE** (61) - **Let your heart therefore be loyal** (be at peace with) to the Lord our God, to **walk** in His statutes and **keep** His commandments, as at this day.
1. *Prayer/contemplation: Heart check...which best describes your hearts commitment to God? [*whole hearted. 1/2 hearted. kindhearted. lionhearted.*]

softhearted. weakhearted. **Temperature** of your heart? [hot. warm. lukewarm. cool. cold. or *artic*]

H. (60) **All the peoples** (*ethne/ethnic groups*) **of the earth** - The Temple was a place of *witness to the world*. Solomon seemed to have a *missionary vision* for the Gentile nations.

IV. Slide12 **DEDICATING (62-66)**

A. (64) **3 sacrifices**: from Lev. ch.1,2,3

1. **Slide13a Burnt** - Acceptance & Atonement & Consecration.

a) **To be Accepted** – The sacrifice is offered because sin has brought estrangement (alienation) between God & the offer'er.

b) **To be Atoned for** – covering (now one is sheltered from the penalty)

c) **To be Consecrated** – to devote entirely.

2. **Burn all** - The Burnt offering (olah) lit. “*that which goes up*”.

a) It was also called the “whole burnt offering”.

b) **Illus: Put your all on the altar & hold back nothing.**

c) **ALL**...except for the skin (hide).

(1) **This is the only Sacrifice entirely consumed.** [*The Epidermis Exception*]

(2) It's amazing then the emphasis we put on **skin** when God says, *you can have it.*

(3) Wars are fought over skin color. Individuals die daily because of the amount of color pigment in their skin. We spend Billions annually on skin products to lighten, darken, or moisten our skin.

d) **Christ was represented as the Burnt-Offering, which pointed to His entire surrender.**

(1) **It also speaks to our life as a believer as wholly** belonging to the Lord. Everything we are, & everything we have, to be used for His glory.

(a) So the Burnt-Offering symbolized *the life devoted to God.*

3. **Grain** - the grain-offering speaks of *the fruit of our labor* consecrated to Him.

4. **Peace** - Peace offering or *Fellowship offering/Thank Offering.*

a) It was applied to those sacrifices that concluded with a sacrificial **meal**.

- b) It symbolized reconciliation, as shown in the fellowship of eating.
- c) Fellowship is the highest point of Christian privilege.
- d) Today we say, "let's do lunch", "Meet you at Starbucks".
- e) Eating is always an element in a covenant. (One today? **communion**)

B. **The Priests were given 5 Offerings in Leviticus.**

1. **Burnt** (dedication, surrendering all), **Grain** (sinless service, fine flour, 1st fruits), **Peace** (fellowship), **Sin**, **Trespass**.
2. **The 5 types of Offerings all depict a different characteristic of Jesus' sacrifice.**
 - a) There is not 1 offering that gives a complete view of Christ. **It is only by putting all 5 together** which make up the whole of the picture of redemption.
3. **Slide13b Religion** is man's attempt to make peace with God on his own terms. **Redemption** is God's offer of peace through Jesus Christ.
 - a) This **peace** only comes through *the blood of the cross*.
 - b) Col.1:20 *having made peace through the blood of His cross*.