

Follow Me
Deny Myself? Pt3
8/25/19

Matt 16:24 - three steps to answering His call - deny yourself - what does that mean
We are looking at what it means to “deny yourself”

Started by going back to understand exactly what God did for us when we received Christ

All the scriptures that tell us that we were joined to Christ - made one with Him
Whatever He is we are because we are in Him

We are not just with Him and HE is not just with us - we are IN HIM & HE IN US.
What does it mean to be “in Him” or “one with Him”?

Not physically joined to Him or each other - we are physically in different places

It is a spiritual union - the essence of who we are is a spirit

It is the Spirit of God in us that joins us to Him and each other

Because we are in Him, our relationship with the world, other people and God the Father is only through Christ - otherwise we have to separate from Him to have our own individual relationship with the world, people & Father

We looked at the example of the tree and its branches - John 15

Branch is one with and part of the vine

Branch's identity comes from the vine - called by the type of the vine or tree

Branch can only produce fruit because it is part of the vine

The vine can only produce its fruit through the branch

Example of marriage covenant

To deny myself is to deny my right to live, think, respond and relate to the world, others as if I were separate from Christ

Satan's entire goal is to get us to see ourselves separate from Him, to respond, think, and act as if we were separate from Him

Just what he used in the garden to separate them from God

Gen 3:1-7 - This is the exact scheme that he uses on us

Jesus as an example

He knew He was one with the Father and only saw Himself in terms of the Father

John 5:19 Son can do nothing of Himself, only what HE sees Father do

John 5:30 I seek not my own will but only the will of Him who sent me

John 12:49 - HE only spoke what He heard His Father speak

Matt 19:16-17 - He knew that His goodness only came from Father

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Satan tried to get Jesus to act as if HE were separate from Father

Luke 4:1-13 - these were same scheme Satan used on Eve - each designed for Jesus to respond independent of the Father

- Vs3-4 “if you are the son of God” - by tempting Jesus to prove that He was one with God, Jesus would be admitting His need to prove it
- Jesus answers with what God has said - I live only by what God has said, not my own ideas.
- Vs 5-7 the temptation was for Jesus to take for Himself that which only He should only get from Father
- Vs 8 Jesus answers by reaffirming His worship of the Father only
- Vs 9-11 he tempts Jesus to test God’s word, but by doing so HE would have exercised His own judgment instead of obeying because God said so
- Vs 12 Jesus recognizes it as a temptation

The essence of temptation is that someone is trying to draw you away from one thing to another - here away from His position in the Father

Jesus successfully maintained His position in the Father through the authority of what God’s Word said about Him and the situation

It was knowing that He was not separate from the Father that allowed Him to endure the suffering He went through for us without defending or protecting Himself

1 Peter 2:18-24 - His suffering was not sickness but persecution

- He is our example of how to endure any wrong done to us
- Vs 22 - He had done nothing wrong, yet He was reviled & mistreated
- Vs 23 - he did not strike back or defend Himself, even though He did nothing wrong
- Vs 24 - He was mistreated for our iniquities
- Vs 23 He could do this because He had “committed” Himself to the Father

It was knowing this that allowed the early disciples to endure their suffering with joy

Acts 5:40-42 - when they were beaten for Christ’s sake they rejoiced because it confirmed that they were seen as one with Him

Note that that union was far surpassing the pain and human suffering

Matt 5:43-48 we are to do the same because we are one with the Father through Christ

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When we defend ourselves, retaliate, get offended, refuse to forgive, etc. it is always because we are seeing ourselves as separate from Christ