

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO

"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:68.

These are the words of Peter in reply to a question from Christ to his disciples. In the face of a diminishing audience, Christ said to his disciples, "Will ye also go away?" The fickle multitude who had been following Him for the loaves and fishes, had become offended at his message. The message in particular had emphasized human depravity. He had emphasized the worthlessness of the flesh. He had twice stated that "No man could come to Him except the Father give the ability." He had said that there are some of you who believe not. From this many of his disciples went back and walked no more with Him. They loved his company no longer. They wanted his bread, but they did not want his doctrine. They wanted food, but they did not want to acknowledge their sinfulness. They wanted to be exalted, not realizing that he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.

Our Lord was working to bring to pass His prediction that every plant which His heavenly Father had not planted would be rooted up. He was putting to test the profession of discipleship. And he tested it by the word. It was the word that sent them

away. In the parable of the sower it is said of the stony ground hearer, that he received the word with joy, but that when persecution arose, because of the word he went back. "But ye believed not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you." John 10:26.

I. The text is a revelation of human helplessness. Man is not self-sufficient, he needs help. Man cannot provide for himself, either in material or spiritual things; either in temporal or eternal things. Man is lost and like the lost sheep cannot find his way back to God. There must be the seeking shepherd. Man is a sinner and cannot make himself right with his offended Ruler, there must be someone who can make him right with God, so as to avert just punishment for his sins. Man needs someone who will seek and save him.

II. The text suggests that deliverance is in a person. Peter did not ask, "To what shall we go, but to whom shall we go?". He knew salvation was in a person. Many are trusting in things instead of a person. They go to an ordinance, or ceremony, or a church for salvation. These things are good and proper in their places but are poor substitutes for the Saviour. We go to the church for service and not for salvation. The church is the God ordained agency thru which the saved are

to serve.

III. The qualifications for Saviourhood, or what kind of a person we must go to. If salvation is in a person, then we must know what person, we must go to the person who is able and willing to save us.

A. The person to whom we must go must be one who can sympathize with us. He must be a man who has been tested in all points that we have been tested in and who did not sin. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:15. Jesus of Nazareth has this qualification. He hath suffered being tempted and is able to sympathize with us. The story of the temptation of Jesus by satan is a revelation.

B. He must be a person who overcame the temptation to sin. Jesus meets this qualification. The story of his temptation is a revelation of His holiness. All the satanic ingenuity was brought to make him sin. If you want to learn how smart satan is, study the temptation of Jesus. Immediately after his baptism, Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. The first test was an appeal to his appetite. Jesus was hun-

gry, after 40 days of fasting and it is not wrong to eat. So satan tried to get him to make bread and eat. What was wrong in doing that? He would have been taking himself out of His Father's hands and doing that which pleased himself. He was led of the Spirit into the place where there was no food and He must look to His Father to provide in that place. He replied that God would provide him bread in his own way. He met this attack with the shield of faith.

The second test was in the realm of faith. Satan would pervert his faith into fanatical presumption. He took him to the top of the temple and told him to jump off the top of the temple and told him to jump off and trust God to take care of him. What would have been wrong in that? Is it wrong to trust God to take care of us in danger? No, but it is wrong to rush into places of danger just to see if God will take care of us. That would have been to tempt God and Jesus, "Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God." If Jesus had been led of the Spirit to the top of the temple and had fallen off then God would have cared for him. But the devil took him to the pinnacle of the temple.

The third temptation was to take a short road to power. The devil knew that Jesus was destined to exercise world power. He knew that Jesus was a man of destiny. And he knew that God's plan for Him was a long, rough, hard road to power. The crown was to come after the cross. But satan offered Him universal dominion if he would fall down and worship him. He meets this attack by peremptory orders for satan to go, and by replying that God alone is to be worshipped. Jesus wanted power but he would not get it the devil's way. He took the cross and waited for God to give him the crown.

C. The person who saves us must have influence at the court of heaven. He must be an attorney who knows how to plead our case. If you had committed some crime what would you do? You would get the best lawyer you could find. If you were innocent of the crime charged you would not be so careful about the lawyer. The fathers of Loeb

and Leopold got C. Darrow to defend their boys because their guilt was obvious.

How does Christ influence the court of heaven? Not as Darrow did the human court by an effort to defeat justice. Jesus went to the cross and satisfied justice for his clients and then pleads his death on their behalf.

D. The person who saves us must be one who has no obligations of his own before the law. For this reason an angel could not save us, for every angel is under law and has his own obligations to that law. The good angels have stood by their obedience. For the same reason no mere man on earth or in heaven can save us. The person who saves us must be more than man. Isaiah says, "Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils."



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ROBERT GINN

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LEROY PACK

JONAH, THE REST OF THE STORY
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TOM ROSS

MUSIC #1

MUSIC #2

WATCH YOUR WORDS

*A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A lovely word may heal and bless.*

