

Lenten Series 2006: Baptized into His Death—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—3/8/06

Title: Baptized Conviction

Text: Romans 6: 12-14 and Matthew 26: 69-75

Intro: Ills.: the symbol of the gavel – a sentence or a degree

Theme: Sometimes we are so convicted by our sinful past that we give up and fall deeper into sin, when what we can do is stand under with the conviction that in Jesus we have the power and forgiveness to say “no” to sin and walk away.

Read Romans 6: 12-14

When we try to do life under our own steam, we **LIVE UNDER CONVICTION**

- Peter was all about trusing Peter and fell miserably to sin and its conviction
 - A. **False conviction:** “Even though all may fall away because of You, I will never fall away.” Mt26:33
 - B. **Compromised conviction:** “I don’t know the man!” Matt 26: 72
 - 1. **Ills.: Strangler Vine leaves tree hollow**
 - C. **Guilty conviction:** “And he went out and wept bitterly.” Matt 26: 75
- To avoid living under conviction we need to repent of our presumptuous convictions
 - A. Self-righteousness which brags on flawed deeds
 - B. Denial of sinful condition which leads to disastrous falls in our lives

Living with CONVICTION THAT YOU ARE DECLARED NOT GUILTY

- Later, Peter would realize that even the greatest of his sin’s debt had been paid
 - A. “¹⁸For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. . . .²¹Baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,. 1 Peter 3:18-21
 - B. Convinced his sin of denial was forgiven/forgotten but also that he had participated in a resurrection
 - 1. *If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Rom 8:11*
 - 2. If he had participated in Jesus’ baptism and now in the power of his resurrection, his conscience was not only cleaned up from the stain of past sin but was able to make godly stands for good
- A Conviction that Jesus’ death is more than just a warm fuzzy; it is empowerment
 - A. To think differently about sin and to choose not to engage in the thing that took Jesus to the cross
 - 1. *“I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. Gal 2:20*
 - B. Live with the divinely given resolve in our baptism to avoid presenting to sin and rather presenting ourselves to good
 - 1. When we find ourselves in Peter’s predicament, we don’t fold to sin out of fear, peer pressure
 - 2. **Ills.: Not knowing why**
 - 3. When stand in the “living hope of the resurrection (1 Peter 1:3) knowing that our personal witness and possible temporary loss are nothing compared to what is up ahead.

Strangler Vine Leaves Tree Hollow

The Brazilian walnut tree is majestic in size and strength. But this beautiful tree has one enemy, the strangler fig. When a strangler fig seed lands on the walnut tree, its roots begin to descend to the ground. As it grows, the vines of the fig squeeze and choke the walnut tree. The fig’s grip on the tree becomes so great that the vine-encased tree slowly dies. Over time, all that is left are twisting vines in the form of a tree. The tree itself has long since disintegrated. Only a vine structure in the shape of a tree remains, while the inside is hollow and lifeless. **Bob Perrone, Duncansville, Pennsylvania; source: "Deep Jungle," PBS (4-17-05)**

Not Knowing Why

Business professors Gary Hamel and C. K. Prahalad have written about an experiment that was conducted with a group of monkeys. It is a vivid story of failure. Four monkeys were placed in a room that had a tall pole in the center. Suspended from the top of that pole was a bunch of bananas. One of the hungry monkeys started climbing the pole to get something to eat, but just as he reached out to grab a banana, he was doused with a torrent of cold water. Squealing, he scampered down the pole and abandoned his attempt to feed himself. Each monkey made a similar attempt, and each one was drenched with cold water. After making several attempts, they finally gave up. Then researchers removed one of the monkeys from the room and replaced him with a new monkey. As the newcomer began to climb the pole, the other three grabbed him and pulled him down to the ground. After trying to climb the pole several times and being dragged down by the others, he

finally gave up and never attempted to climb the pole again. The researchers replaced the original monkeys, one by one, and each time a new monkey was brought in, he would be dragged down by the others before he could reach the bananas. In time, the room was filled with monkeys who had never received a cold shower. None of them would climb the pole, but none of them knew why. (Adapted from *Failing Forward* by John Maxwell)

Romans 6:12-14

¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. ¹⁴For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

1 Cor. 6:9-11

⁹Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ¹⁰nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

Matthew 26:69-75

⁶⁹Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. ⁷⁰But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. ⁷¹Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷²He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!" ⁷³After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away." ⁷⁴Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly