

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 442– March 24, 2013**

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Good Morning!**

**Let's Make a Mental Shift\**

Good morning! John, Chapter 15, Verses 4 and 5 say...

/JOH 15:4-5

*“Abide in Me, and I (the Lord Jesus Christ will abide) in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.//I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”\*

Everything in our lives...our success, our failures, our happiness, our tears, our ability to handle circumstances with contentment are all tied to our connection with the vine, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We come to bible study to take advantage of our connection and to learn the depth of the resource we branches have in Christ.

In preparation for the study of the Word of God, in self-evaluation you can ask yourself, “Am I making the vine the center of my existence and enjoying its sap?”

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

*...that you be renewed (by God) in the spirit of your mind...*

The Word of God is the sap that brings the life of truth from the vine to us branches. Now is the time to open yourself, to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, prepare you “in humility (to) receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

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I Will\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our God in song, while you let thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ occupy your mind. The opening song is I WILL.

**/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Help us to learn the whole realm of Christianity, the unadulterated truth of the Word of God...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

Rory Clark  
Pastor-Teacher\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, a gift given to me by God for your benefit, for the building up of the body of Christ...God's Royal Family. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**Can We Start Again Please?\**

As you may or may not know, I taught from the pulpit of Pastor John Farley this week at the Lighthouse Bible Church in Deerfield Beach, Florida. Pastor John has been in the hospital, and I went down to let his congregation and his family know that in Pastor John's absence, there is someone who has his back and their backs. Through diligent study, Pastor John has had a similar epiphany about the company line of doctrines we have been teaching over the years, and has found that the bible paints a different picture than

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many of the things we have been teaching and learning. Some of the turmoil that has rippled through our congregation and through our souls is also rippling through other congregations and other souls across the country. As one person put it, the Lord Jesus Christ “has the chessboard covered,” with ministries in Massachusetts, Florida, Arizona and Oregon that are reexamining what we are teaching about God and His Word.

One of the delights of my Florida trip was the chance to meet for lunch with the Goldberg family last Friday. You’ve probably heard me talk about them in the past. Jan Goldberg is Jewish and a Christian...also joining us for lunch was his wife Lisa...and his two daughters, Lindsay and Taylor. Lindsay does the cover art for our publications.

It was an interesting experience having lunch with them. The lunch began at one o’clock. In my mind it was going to be a two hour lunch and then I’d make a leisurely stroll to the airport to get my five o’clock flight. The next thing I knew it was 3:30 and I was running for the exit to get to my plane on time. I made the flight with a few minutes to spare. But the interesting thing was that a two and a half hour lunch seemed like five minutes.

The Goldberg family had made a blood oath before the lunch that we would not be talking about the bible. Many of you do that with me, and I always find that a bit odd in light of the fact that there is nothing I like talking about more than the bible except Christ. Lisa had questions, not only from her own curiosity about and her interest in the Word of God, but also from the pressure she and her family have been receiving to stop studying with this ministry, in light of our rejection of the doctrine of rebound and other doctrines which we think obscure the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God and that actually block our access to a relationship with him.

The funny thing about this lunch other than the fact that it was a one hundred and fifty minute lunch that seemed like five-minutes, is the feeling I got from being with them. Jan is a police officer with a penetrating and investigative glare. He can spot bull-skubala a mile away, yet all I saw when I looked at him is integrity and love. He is a straight shooter (no pun intended), he is crazy about all three of his girls, and it is written all over his face in love. In addition, it was obvious to me that he loves his Pastor. It didn’t have to be said with words...it was said with his presence at the lunch,

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with his intensity of focus, with his handshake, and with his hug, and it was genuinely edifying to spend time in his presence. In four years, when he retires from police work, he plans to move the family to Phoenix. We'll welcome him with open arms.

In Lindsay, his older daughter, the quiet one of the bunch, I see a brilliant sense of humor...but more than that, I see a child-like faith which I compare to my own faith in my teachers. If I say it, she is going to try it and then check the results.

In Taylor, the seventeen year old, I see resolve. She has informed me that she's moving to Phoenix soon to help with the church, and it was as if she was warning me to tell all of you to get ready for her appearance. So I assure you Taylor, that we will have a red carpet runway and we eagerly await your arrival.

In Lisa, I see a genuineness...a real desire to know the Lord...she is behind a few lessons this year in light of the fact that her Mom just went home to be with the Lord, and she is genuinely concerned about what has been taught, and what it all means in light of what she has known about the Word of God in the past. Her concern concerned me, and this lesson is dedicated to her and to you.

So first of all, thanks to the Goldbergs for the lunch. The great thing about the lunch to me is that I was surrounded by four passionate people who love me...and their love for me is small compared to their love for the Lord Jesus Christ and His Word. It's hard to describe the honor you feel inside when you know that people are counting on you, and I want them and you to know that I have no intention of leading you astray in your spiritual lives. That's the one thing that should be most obvious about the changes we have been investigating this year. The slogan of Barah Ministries is "Pursuing Truth from the Word of God." That's exactly what we are doing. When we find the truth we keep it. There is no question in our minds that Jesus Christ is God...that we are saved by believing in Him through faith alone in Christ alone...that we are eternally secure. But the matter of how to handle post salvation sinning, the idea that we lose the filling of the Spirit, the idea that we can get out of the plan of God once we are in it, the idea that we can lose fellowship with God is simply not supported by Scripture in my mind...and harping on First John, Chapter 1, Verse 9 as the thing that keys all of these

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very important things is just not sound from my point of view. We will follow God's guidance in these matters, and I think he has been leading us to follow Him for quite some time.

In a related series of events, I had six conversations with women in the congregation this week. The subject matters were different, but the message was the same. The message was this...

### /WOMEN IN THE CONGREGATION

#### The Message

“I know there is a lot of disturbance because of what you are teaching. We're with you. Don't defend yourself. Don't look back. Just teach us about Christ.”\

Van Brumbach sent a similar message that is not publishable, and is in my favorite language...expletives...but in essence he said the same thing. And I didn't get the feeling that these are people who were simply being loyal to me...which, by the way they were, but more that they were loyal to Christ and to the Word of God. Loyalty to a Pastor over the Word of God is ludicrous.

I think the phone calls came in because of my comments last week about there being no line between me as a Pastor and you as a congregation. We are all members of the Royal Family of God and we are on the same side of the line looking at Christ. I don't think those calls would have come in without the comments last week about there being no line between you and me. I hope the last lesson shed some light on the fact that there is no more a line between you and me than there is a line between Christ and us. We are family...Royal Family...Christ expects unity among us.

What I saw from these people is spiritual gifts in play. I felt exhorted. They were blowing wind in my sails, and I appreciate it.

The events of this week caused me to review the doctrine of privacy. We have been taught that there is a privacy in the priesthood...we represent ourselves before God and our spiritual life is no one else's business. This privacy concept draws a line between the congregation and the Pastor, and between congregation members. When I look at the doctrine and compare it

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to the Word of God, without teaching it at this time, what I see is that the bible suggests that privacy concerns sins. The bible tells us that we are not to be spreading information about the sins of others in the congregation, because that causes division. Here are a few verses from those passages... first, Matthew, Chapter 18, Verse 15...

/MAT 18:15

*“If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother.”\*

Luke, Chapter 17, Verses 3 and 4...

/LUK 17:3

*“Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.”\*

/LUK 17:4

*“And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ forgive him.”\*

I think the doctrine of privacy, when misinterpreted, stifles our ability to use each other to learn and to grow. I think the doctrine of privacy, as taught my line of teachers, perverts the unity that we are to have as a Royal Family.

The thing the Goldberg lunch and the calls from the people in the congregation had in common in my mind is that without those interactions, it's not worth having a church or a Pastor. How can we have a congregation that just “gets the doctrine” and goes home, being careful not to talk about what we are learning to anyone, even to each other, because we don't want to violate anyone's privacy? How can there be a line between us if we expect to benefit from each other and to grow in grace and knowledge as our Lord commands? I **think** the doctrine of privacy discourages questioning of the Pastor and the learning, and that can't be good in any circumstance. And when something you are being taught is questionable in your mind, you have to say it to the Pastor.

We need more interactions among each other, not less, so that we can help each other gain an understanding of Christ, an understanding of Scripture

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and an understanding of each other. You make a difference to me. And I make a difference to you.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

*Better is one Day in Your House  
When I Think About Home\*

Welcome back!

A frequent question I am hearing from people throughout the country, and the question in Lisa Goldberg eyes is...

/QUESTION FROM CONGREGATION MEMBERS

“Where are you going with this?”\

I think there is a better question...

/THE REAL QUESTION

“Where is God taking us?”\

I’m not taking us anywhere...God is taking us somewhere...and I think it is obvious that He is talking us into a deep and intimate and personal relationship with Him, and into a deep and intimate and personal relationship with His Word. It is pretty simple. He is answering our prayers.

At the lunch with the Goldbergs...I took a plate and waved it in front of Lisa’s forehead. I told her, “Forget what you knew about God and His Word.” Let’s see what God has to teach us without the influence of legalism.

A song came to mind from the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar. This song was added later in the musical’s run...I’d like for you to listen to the words. To set the scene, Mary Magdalene and Peter, and the other apostles have been following Jesus for three years. The Lord had been telling them all along that He was going to die. Of course, they didn’t believe Him. But after the events in the Garden of Gethsemane...after the betrayal by

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Judas...they were in shock. What Jesus had been saying all along was real, and they wanted a reset...they wanted to know, “Could We Start Again Please?” Let’s listen...

/COULD WE START AGAIN, PLEASE?

From Jesus Christ Superstar

*Mary Magdalene*

I’ve been living to see you.  
Dying to see you, but it shouldn’t be like this.  
This was unexpected...  
What do I do now?  
Could we start again please?\

/COULD WE START AGAIN, PLEASE?

From Jesus Christ Superstar

*Mary Magdalene*

I’ve been very hopeful, so far.  
Now for the first time, I think we’re going wrong.  
Hurry up and tell me...  
This is just a dream.  
Or could we start again please?\

/COULD WE START AGAIN, PLEASE?

From Jesus Christ Superstar

*Peter*

I think you’ve made your point now.  
You’ve even gone a bit too far to get the message home.  
Before it gets too frightening...  
We ought to call a vote...  
So could we start again please?\

/COULD WE START AGAIN, PLEASE?

From Jesus Christ Superstar

*All*

I’ve been living to see you.

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Dying to see you, but it shouldn't be like this.  
This was unexpected...  
What do I do now?  
Could we start again please?\

/COULD WE START AGAIN, PLEASE?  
From Jesus Christ Superstar

*All*

I think you've made your point now.  
You've even gone a bit too far to get the message home.  
Before it gets too frightening...  
We ought to call a vote...  
So could we start again please?  
Could we start again please?  
(Repeat 5 times)\

/COULD WE START AGAIN, PLEASE?  
From Jesus Christ Superstar

*Mary Magdalene*

Could we start again?\

Turn in your bibles to Mark, Chapter 7, Verse 1...

/MAR 7:1

*The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) when they had come from Jerusalem... \*

/MAR 7:2

*...and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed (hands). \*

/MAR 7:3

*(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders... \*

/MAR 7:4

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*...and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.)\*

/MAR 7:5

*The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?”\*

/MAR 7:6

*And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.’”\*

/MAR 7:7

*‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’\*

/MAR 7:8

*“Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”\*

/MAR 7:9

*He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.”\*

/MAR 7:10

*“For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER;’ and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH;’”\*

/MAR 7:11

*“...but you say, ‘If a man says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God)...’ “\*

/MAR 7:12

*‘...you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or his mother...’\*

/MAR 7:13

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“...thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”\

I don't want Barah Ministries to be a place that “honors God with lips” without really knowing Him. I don't want Barah Ministries to be a place that neglects the commandments of God, and holds to the traditions and the doctrines of men. In short, I'll take a Jewish Carpenter over Greek Scholars any day of the week. I want you to have answers to these questions...

### /QUESTIONS WHICH DEMAND ANSWERS

Who is the Lord Jesus Christ?

What does the Lord Jesus Christ want for you?

What is the Christian Way of Living?\

### /QUESTIONS WHICH DEMAND ANSWERS

What is the new self?

What is the new spiritual species?

What is the fruit of the Spirit?\

I'll close with this idea...if I ask you, “What do you know about the Lord Jesus Christ,” what would you say? There is a difference in description for someone who really knows Christ, and someone who only knows the company line about Christ...well He died for our sins...He's the Son of God...He's the Savior. If you don't know the Lord personally, then I have to take the initial blame for failing you as a teacher. The Lord Jesus Christ is a person, and the traditions of men and the doctrines of men focus us more on the doctrines than on Christ.

I want to know who Christ is really, I think you do, too...I want to know His Word really...I think you do, too...and I think He is taking us there. Could we start again please?

### /CLOSING SONG

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He's Been Faithful\

**CLOSING VERSES**

/PHI 1:6

*For I am confident of this very thing, that He (God the Father) who began a (divine) good work in (the creation of) you will (keep on) perfect(ing) it until the day of Christ Jesus.\*

/PSA 37:1-2

*Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.//For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.\*

/PHI 4:7

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard (garrison) your hearts and your minds (for those of you) in (union with) Christ Jesus.\*

**/CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...\

THANKS  
INTERCESSION  
PETITION

And we pray that you continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of your person, your thinking, your work, your reputation and your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

/Thanks for coming!  
Thanks for watching!  
Thanks for listening!

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