

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 466– May 19, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning! John, Chapter 20, Verses 30 and 31 say...

/JOH 20:30

*Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book (the bible)... *

/JOH 20:31

*...but these (signs that) have been written (about here are written) so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. *

The Lord Jesus Christ is more than just signs and wonders and miracles... He is the fulfillment of a promise. Because of a broken relationship, God the Father chose to send His Son for the repair of the relationship so that His creatures would never be out of relationship again. And for those who choose to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for a “so great” salvation, we will live with Him forever and ever.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to intentionally learn all of the marvelous spiritual blessings we have at our disposal. We're here so...

EPH 4:23

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

This time of renewing is a time to let yourself be changed by God. He changes us at the moment of salvation once and for all time, and He changes us moment by moment through His resurrection life. In bible study our knowledge is changed... a renewing that changes our thoughts, giving us new thoughts to think... and those new thoughts show up in the form of a manifest Christianity that shines brightly for all to see. Welcome to the place where our Mentor and Teacher, God the Holy Spirit, uses His enabling power to prepare you to “in humility receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

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/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Calling You to Freedom\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's listen to June Murphy worship our Lord in song...the opening song is CALLING YOU TO FREEDOM.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

Open us up to our total dependence on You...

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 God's Royal Family...to recognize ourselves as a unified force, in union with Christ and with each other forever and ever, and to assist you in the development of a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Unconditional Love Comes from the Source to Recipients

We continue our study of the CREATOR.

<CREATOR VS. CREATURE CONFLICT 21 C's SLIDE>

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Who is the CREATOR? The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator. We dedicate the opening moments of our bible study this morning to anyone who is here who would like to have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord, starting right now.

/THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News Concerning the “So Great” Salvation Provided by the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane. He saw her reading her bible and he turned to her and said, “Do you want to talk? Flights go so much more quickly if you strike up a conversation with a fellow passenger.”

The little girl, who had just begun to get into the depth of a passage, replied to the total stranger, “What would you want to talk about?”

“Oh, I don’t know,” said the atheist, as he smiled smugly, “How about if we talk about why there is no God, or why there is no heaven, or why there is no hell, or why there is no life after death?”

“Okay,” the little girl said. “Those could be interesting topics, but let me ask you a question first...a horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff...grass. Yet a deer defecates little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?”

The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl’s intelligence, thinks about it and says, “Hmmm, I have no idea.” The little girl replies, “Do you really feel qualified to discuss God and heaven and hell and life after death, when you don’t know shit?” And then the little girl went back to reading her bible.

At Barah Ministries, we don’t feel quite the same way about atheists! The bible says...in Psalm 14, Verse 1...

/PSA 14:1

The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”

This is certainly true. It is foolish to think there is no God when the intricacy of the design of the universe demands that there is a designer. Yet

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what is most important for the atheists to know is that the God they don't think exists, created them and loves them unconditionally. The central issue for creatures, both angelic and human, in all of divine history is detailed in Matthew, Chapter 22, Verse 42...

/MAT 22:42

“What do you think about the Christ (the Messiah)?”

Have you ever been loved? Do you know how special it is when other human beings put their whole being...their whole self on the line, risking rejection by saying, “I love you?” It's pretty special to be loved, and it is pretty special to love. Love colors our whole viewpoint toward life. If being loved is great, how about being loved unconditionally?

I have good news today for atheists...and I have good news today for agnostics, who don't think the “mysteries” of God can be known...and I have good news today and for the religious... and I have good news today for those entrapped in the throes of legalism. God loves you unconditionally. There is nothing you have to do to earn His love. There is nothing you have to do to maintain His love. There is nothing you can do to lose His love. The Lord Jesus Christ is God, and the unconditional love He has for you is the most special love you will ever have in your life.

Every day in your periphery, there is a reminder of God's love for you, always somewhere within view. The Cross.

<CROSS WITH CHRIST HANGING FROM IT>

Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8 says...

/ROM 5:8

But God (the Father) demonstrates His own (unconditional) love toward us (all mankind), in that while we were yet sinners, (the Lord Jesus) Christ died for us.

The good news is that God the Father proved His love for you, no matter how terrible you think you are, by sending His Son to a gruesome death on a Cross on your behalf. God the Son voluntarily took on the form of true humanity, becoming the God-man, and laid down His life to make a

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relationship with God a possibility for you. John, Chapter 15, Verse 13 says...

/JOH 15:13

“Greater (unconditional) love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.”

The Lord Jesus Christ proved His unconditional love for you by dying on a Cross. As a result, He opened the possibility of a permanent and unbreakable relationship with God by eliminating the sin problem, the problem of your spiritual death at your physical birth. First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22 says...

/1CO 15:22

For as in Adam all die (spiritually), so also in Christ all will be made (spiritually) alive (born again).

The good news is that the God who loves you unconditionally and who died for you at the Cross, the Lord Jesus Christ, has forgiven you. Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 13 and 14 say...

/COL 1:13-14

For He (God the Father) rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (the Lord Jesus Christ),//in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The good news is that the God who loves you unconditionally and who died for you at the Cross wants a relationship with you right now. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9 says...

/2PE 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you (unbelievers), not wishing for any to perish (in the Lake of Fire) but for all to come to repentance (a change of mind about the Lord Jesus Christ).

Right now, you can take advantage of God’s love for you by simply believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. John, Chapter 14, Verse 6 says...

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/JOH 14:6

(The Lord) Jesus Christ said, “I am the way (to salvation), (I am) the truth (through the Word of God) and (I am) the (eternal) life (the Zoe life...the resurrection life); no one comes to the Father, but through (believing in) Me.”

Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31 says...

/ACT 16:31

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).

John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 says...

/JOH 3:36

“He (anyone) who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life (the Zoe Life)...but he who does not obey (the command to believe in) the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) will not see (the eternal) life (the Zoe Life) but the wrath of God (the lake of fire) abides on him.”

The good news is that when you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ at a single moment in time, you are saved forever...and you cannot lose it under any circumstance. John, Chapter 10, Verse 28 says...

/JOH 10:28

And I give eternal life to them (believers in Christ), and they (believers) shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them (believers) out of My hand.

You may try to lose your salvation, but the Lord will not lose you!

The good news is that you can't work for salvation...it is something God does for you, free of charge, by means of His grace. Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 6 says...

/ROM 11:6

But if (1) it (salvation) is by grace (and it is), it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

So right now you are invited to have a conversation with God the Father and

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to tell Him you are believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the good news is that will be the moment that eternal life begins for you. First Timothy, Chapter 2, Verses 3 and 4 say...

/1TI 2:3-4

This is good and acceptable in the sight of (THE) God (who is) our Savior (the Lord Jesus Christ),//who desires all men to be saved and (who desires all mankind) to come to the knowledge of the truth.\

The truth is this...God loves you unconditionally. He always has. He always will. And it would be a good idea if you love Him back. It's your choice, and no one can make you do it.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Unconditional Love Comes from the Source to Recipients

Turn in your bibles to John, Chapter 15...the Lord Jesus Christ is addressing eleven of His apostles in what has come to be known as "The Upper Room Discourse" on the night before the day in which He is crucified...let's begin at Verse 1 and go to Verse 5...

/JOH 15:1

"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser."\

/JOH 15:2

"Every branch (believer in Christ) in (union with) Me that does not bear fruit, He (God the Father) takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit."\

/JOH 15:3

"You (eleven apostles) are already clean (saved) because of the word (the gospel message) which I have spoken to you."\

/JOH 15:4

"Abide in Me (in my Word), and I (my Words) in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you (bear fruit) unless you abide in Me (in My Word)."\

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/JOH 15:5

“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the vine, you (believers in Christ) are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

He is Exalted

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

Haunting words in John, Chapter 15, Verse 5...

/JOH 15:5

“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the vine, you (believers in Christ) are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Apart from Me you can do nothing. Do you know that established fact?

As believers in Christ we feel so differently. As believers in Christ we are in union with Christ...we are in an unbreakable relationship with Him...we are saved...He will perfect us...we have a future that is detailed in Romans Chapter 8...culminating in these verses...Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 28 to 32...

/ROM 8:28

And we (believers in Christ) know that God (the Father) causes (the) all things to work together for (divine) good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

/ROM 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren...

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/ROM 8:30

...and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

/ROM 8:31

What then shall we say (face) to (face with) these things? If (1) God is for us (an He is), who is (successful) against us?

/ROM 8:32

He (God the Father) who did not spare His own Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), but delivered Him over for us all (for all mankind...believers and unbelievers), how will He not also with Him freely give us (the) all things?

Unconditional love. The study of unconditional love is a study of relationships. The vine, the branch, and the fruit analogy gives us a beautiful picture of relationships.

<VINE-BRANCH-FRUIT PICTURE>

Relationships require nutrients...giving, unconditional love, and forgiving. Relationships rest on the foundation of freedom. We don't control others. We can only enjoy them. Or not! And when they are not so enjoyable, as often happens in relationships, we have the nutrients of relationships to nurture them back to good health...giving and unconditional love and forgiving, all things that are given to us as gifts from God and none of which the Old Self is able or interested in mustering up. Look back at John, Chapter 15, beginning at Verse 1...

/JOH 15:1

“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”

God the Father, the author of the Plan of God for all creatures, is the vinedresser. He is the one who cultivates the Vine...and the Vine is perfect, His Son, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Lord is the true Vine. There are counterfeit vines...but He is the true Vine...and in verse one, God the Holy Spirit leads us into a truth that makes the distinction perfectly clear. God the Father and His Son are lovers of creatures...they both love creatures unconditionally. They are life givers... they remove impurities from the

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branches. They provide nourishment to the branches. They are the SOURCE...they are the sustenance of the branches...

/JOH 15:2

“Every branch (believer in Christ) in (union with) Me that does not bear fruit, He (God the Father) takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.”

The pruning is for our benefit. As branches we have been grafted into the Vine, the Lord Jesus Christ. We were olive branches, grafted into a vine that produces grapes. We were taken from another tree...the olive tree, and grafted into the grape vine...so in that way it was not a natural fit. Grape vines don't produce olives do they? It is a fitting analogy. Branches are sucklings on a vine. When a branch is grafted into a vine in the agriculture analogy, its survival is in doubt. When we as believers in Christ are grafted into the Lord, the true Vine, our development is not at all in doubt. But because we came from olive trees, a fitting analogy perhaps for the Old Self Life, some of the shoots that form on our branches are not supportive of the New Self Life we are experiencing as we are attached rightly to the Vine. Thus the shoots on our branches are pruned...our God removes those things from us that are not life...our God shakes what can be shaken in the pruning process so that what remains is most supportive of our growth as branches. Pruning is a shaking process...as in Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verse 27...

/HEB 12:27

This expression, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Look at John, Chapter 15, Verse 3...

/JOH 15:3

“You (eleven apostles) are already clean (saved) because of the word (the gospel message) which I have spoken to you.”

/JOH 15:4

“Abide in Me (in my Word), and I (my Words) in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you (bear fruit) unless you abide in Me (in My Word).”

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We are **dependent** on the Vine. We are in union with the Vine. We are pruned by the Vine. We respond to the Vine. We are RECIPIENTS from the SOURCE of the Vine. We are nurtured by the Vine. We are in relationship with the Vine.

/JOH 15:5

“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am the vine, you (believers in Christ) are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

Apart from the Vine, a branch can do nothing. We are dependent on God for everything. The question that I invite you to think about is this...

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

What do you depend on God for?\

We’ll address this question as our lessons continue. Because you really have to ask yourself a serious question about yourself...and we began to address it in the last lesson...are you living the New Self Life or are you living a cleaned up version of the Old Self Life?

/JOH 15:2a

*“Every branch (believer in Christ) in (union with) Me that does not bear fruit, He (God the Father) takes away... *

God doesn’t want us anywhere near the Old Self Life.

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/CLOSING SONG

Your Love Takes Me\

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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