

Thursday – What God says to Evil
Flag Week, 2013

INTRO

- Anyone try the graveyard spiral? :)
- Anyone go out and buy One Direction's song? :)

- Review **Romans** verse. *"Let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."*
- Review: God TRANSFORMS
 - By changing the way we THINK
 - He does that by SPEAKING
 - Remember, like airplane instruments
 - He speaks
 - Your job to listen.

- Yesterday, Jesus speaks to You
 - Excerpts from yesterday and today will be on trotters41.com later today.

- Today, Jesus speaks to Evil
 - Sort of a big deal.

 - When Jesus speaks to evil incarnate, what does He say?
 - We're not going to solve the question of Evil, but...
 - We ARE going to see what Jesus says to Evil. Buckle up

SONG & PRAYER

- Hear the themes in this song.
 - About His love (our deepest need)
 - About believing "all you say we are."

Lyric: WE COULD CHANGE THE WORLD – Matt Redman

- Could we live like Your grace is stronger
Than all our faults and failures?
Could we live like Your love
Is deeper than our hearts can fathom
Could we live like this?

Could we live like Your name is higher
 Than every other power?
 Could we live like Your ways
 Are wiser than our understanding?
 Could we live like this?
 Could we live like this?

[Chorus]

Yes, our God is all He says, all He says He is
 Jesus, in Your name we could change the world
 We stand in Your love, in Your power
 And all You say we are
 Jesus, in Your name we could change the world

We believe that Your grace is stronger
 Than all our faults and failures
 We believe that Your love
 Is deeper than our hearts can fathom
 So could we live like this
 And shine in all the world
 Could we live like this?

- PRAY

Jesus Speaks to Evil

- Maybe you've seen a lot of evil in your life. Maybe not.
- Maybe you've wondered about evil.
 - o Isn't it a problem? God is love? And evil exists? How? Honest Question.
- Maybe like friends in America, "Wow, Cambodia is so dark. So evil."
 - o Perhaps they didn't work downtown in the ER with me
 - Didn't see the looks of desperation on the druggies face
 - Not that they were evil, but a result of evil
 - The panic in the woman's eyes who'd just been abused
 - The sheer violence of another gang-related murder.
 - Hospital on lock down, prevent the other bad guys!
 - o Perhaps they didn't know the guy with the Hebrew on his forehead...
 - In pod S, "you seem very spiritual."

- “I can see the aura around you is very thick and bright.”
- Maybe they didn’t walk around the Psychics Convention
 - See the fortune tellers, the conjurers
 - Free entry, and I wanted to pray over the folks as they lined up to channel a dead friend or relative. Kind of spooky.
- Not going to “solve” the problem with evil, or answer the questions
 - BUT, we are going to look at what Jesus said in one instance
 - Face to face with Evil, with Father of Lies and Enemy Number One
 - Face to face with Satan, when Satan tried his best. AND FAILED.
 - Perhaps, this encounter can change the way we think.

Why I’m Sharing this

- Feel like a beggar who’s found some bread
- In Cambodia almost two years
 - Hard, but good
 - See evil, unfairness, women treated like trash
 - Full of doubt.
 - Full of fear
 - Full of temptation
 - (Maybe ya’ll never have those “down” times, but whatev. I do.
- Feel like Evil has often spoken to me, in those dark places. RASPY VOICE.
 - What can you do?
 - Why are you here?
 - What about your kids?
 - This is stupid.
 - You’re not equipped, not trained,
 - You’re not like them (other smart, missionaries with Bible degrees)
- This verse, written on my office wall, has been to me a rock.
 - It has been to me a solid handhold during this mountain climb.
 - And when I couldn’t hold on any longer, it has been the rope that caught me.
- When I feel like Theodin, saying in the bowels of Helms Deep, at the end of hope,
 - ***“So much death. What can men do in the face of such reckless hate.”*** This verse has been to me like

- Aragorn, saying, ***“Ride out with me. Ride out and meet them.”***

Jesus Speaks

- Recap Story **Matthew 4** – temptation of Jesus
 - Jesus is tired and hungry, potentially at weakest point.
 - Lonely? Been by himself the whole time.
 - NOT a cozy, chat over coffee!
 - Prince of Evil vs. Prince of Peace
 - These two are NOT friends.
 - NOT a friendly bargaining process like at Russian Market
 - War.
- Satan will not leave.
 - Satan keeps talking and stalking.

“You want food, right? Nice, fresh-baked bread? How long has it been, Jesus? Eat.” “How about you prove God cares for you? I don’t think he does. Jump.” “OK, everyone wants stuff, power, and control. You want some? I’ll give it all to you. Bow.”
- We sometimes think Jesus coolly replies, “Oh, you silly Satan, you know the Bible says...”
 - But this was a battle.
 - This temptation was real.
 - *Jesus felt this.*
- I believe Jesus looks straight into his ugly, evil eyes, and says,
 - IT IS WRITTEN. YOU MUST WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD. SERVE ONLY HIM.
- And Satan left. Amazing.
- What does Jesus speak to EVIL?

I will worship the Lord my God. I will serve only him.

- Jesus wasn’t just saying, “Hey, the Bible Says.”
 - He was stating, with certainty and all the power he could muster,
 - I WILL WORSHIP THE LORD MY GOD. I WILL SERVE ONLY HIM
 - **Maybe you need to start saying this.**
 - He was emphatically stating
 - I will NOT listen to you, Satan.

- I will worship only One, and you're not it.
 - I will NOT follow you.
 - I will NOT obey you.
 - I will NEVER bow to you.
 - Go back to hell where you belong.
 - I'm with Him!
- Perhaps this is too simplistic, but I've tested this, and I've prayed this hundreds of times this year.
 - **When I could pray little else**, I've simply stuttered,
 - "I will worship the Lord my God. I will serve only Him."
 - I've prayed it silently, I've prayed it out loud.
 - **When I've been discouraged**, I've asked God to help me do it.
 - "God, help me worship you. Help me serve only you."
 - **When I've felt tempted**, I've said this out loud, so Satan and his demons could hear. I'm with Jesus on this one.
 - Listen to what Jesus says to Evil, and let it change the way you think.
 - LET THIS BE YOUR PRAYER TOO!

About Temptation

- Something a few of you might wrestle with. :)
- Seriously, I'm not just talking about temptation to commit the Big Sins, whatever you think those are.
 - Maybe it's temptation to sin. Like a real, no doubt about it sin.
 - But maybe it's a temptation to despair?
 - To doubt?
 - To leave God because of pain. You've been hurt too deeply.
- Want to give you a very practical tool.
- First – Have to know...
 - You gotta know Satan smarter than you. (you don't "got this")
 - He's stronger,
 - He's got more wit,
 - More charm,
 - More experience.
 - He has more time,

- More resources.
- You can't argue with Satan and win.
- You can't outlast him, outsmart him, or outcast him.
 - ***But you can resist him. And you must.***

Here's How – Use Jesus' Tool

- The Truth: There is only One God. I'm serving him.
- This is your stake in the ground,
 - The peg (however you define peg) to hang your hat on,
 - The point to hang your life on.
 - I will worship the Lord my God. I will serve only him.
- In saying this, you steal Satan's thunder
 - You take the bullet out of his gun
 - Crack the wings off his plane
 - Pull the tracks off his tank
 - You draw a big thick line in the sand.
 - You remind Satan and yourself that you worship One, and that it's not him.
- Furthermore, You remind yourself.
 - And you remind God.
 - I believe God hears this statement and responds. (been my experience)

CLOSE

What was Satan's Response?

- Satan responds.....by leaving.
- And God responds by sending angels to minister to Jesus.
- Put another way, SATAN RESPONDS BY LEAVING, AND GOD RESPONDS BY COMING. HE SHOWS UP. And that's a pretty good trade, I think.

May God transform our minds by changing the way we think.

- Yes, there is pain, yes there is Evil, but there is God.
- Yes there is temptation, yes there is discouragement and doubt, but there is God.
- And I've decided that with everything in me, until my last breath, I will worship the Lord **MY** God. I will serve only Him.

- I hope you'll join me.

END.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What would you have said to the guy who told Jonathan, "You seem very spiritual. I can see the aura around you is very thick and bright."
- When Jesus speaks to evil incarnate, what does He say?
- Why did Jonathan think it was important to share this with us today?
- How does Satan respond to Jesus? Where does he go?
- Have you ever had a "dark" time in your life (doubt, pain, temptation, etc)? What helped you?
- What might happen if we made it a habit to use this key from Jesus?