
If these notes are useful to you, and you've enjoyed them, or if you have observations or questions feel free send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net.—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**)

The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the bar. Please enjoy!)

CROWD BREAKER What plans do you have for the summer?

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to proclaim fearlessly the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions Bill Pelletier has raised from Luke 19. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

Pentecost Sunday. Pastor Bill reviews Jesus' humble arrival in the stable, and His purpose, which He accomplished with His life and His passion and His death on the cross...and His SOON return. **Did this make you think of anything?** "He's not coming back as a man of sorrows, as the suffering servant. When He comes back, He's going to be riding on the clouds on a white horse, and on His thigh is written 'King of Kings and Lord of Lords.' That's our future. And here we are. I want to ask you; how do we live?" **Answer him. What do our priorities need to be?**

Pastor Bill inverts the chapter, talking about the triumphal entry on Palm Sunday before he discusses the parables that preceded it. Let's look at the triumphal entry:

Pastor Bill sums up the expectations of all who were aware of the prophecies concerning the soon coming King Jesus' contemporaries had: He would do everything the OT prophets had done, signs, healings, miracles, teaching...He'd train disciples. And then he'd subdue Rome and set up the Davidic kingdom and scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees would ascend to the former glories Israel knew in the days of Solomon.

What went wrong with their calculations?

The Triumphal Entry

(Zechariah 9:9-13; Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19)

28After Jesus had said this, He went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

29As He approached Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, He sent out two of His disciples, **30**saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, on which no one has ever sat. Untie it and bring it here. **31**If anyone asks, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'" **What gift of the Holy Spirit does Jesus display here?**

32So those who were sent went out and found it just as Jesus had told them. **33**As they were untying the colt, its owners asked, "Why are you untying the colt?"

34"The Lord needs it," they answered. **35**Then they led the colt to Jesus, threw their cloaks over it, and put Jesus on it.

36As He rode along, the people spread their cloaks on the road. **37**And as He approached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of disciples began to praise God joyfully in a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen:

38"Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Look up and compare this with Psalm 118: 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.

From the house of the LORD we bless you.

27The LORD is God;

He has made His light to shine upon us.

Bind the festal sacrifice with cords
to the horns of the altar.

28You are my God, and I will give You thanks.

You are my God, and I will exalt You.

29 Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His loving devotion endures forever.

What's missing from the expectations this Psalm evokes?

39 But some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples!" **What is missing in the Pharisees expectations? Bill asks, "How did they get it so wrong?" Answer him. Did Jesus ever say, "We're going to take it to the Romans now?" In fact, what had He predicted several times? Why didn't anyone listen, not even the disciples? Bill says they were witnessing something totally new. What difference did that make? How do we know if we have our own "vision" right about these days? How much does it matter, how we live and what we think? How much does it matter for God's ultimate plan? How much does it matter for us? For our family and our neighbors? How great is the risk that we miss what they missed? How can we know what we're missing?**

40 "I tell you," He answered, "if they remain silent, the very stones will cry out." **How inevitable is it that Jesus will be glorified in the end, even if it is not we who glorify Him? Why would we not? Look up Esther 4: 12** When Esther's words were relayed to Mordecai, **13** he sent back to her this reply: "Do not imagine that because you are in the king's palace you alone will escape the fate of all the Jews. **14** For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows if perhaps you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" **How inevitable is the salvation of the Jews? What if Esther does not do her part? What choice does Esther make? What is your choice if the rocks might outpraise you?**

Now look back at the parable of the Minas.

The Parable of the Ten Minas

(Matthew 25:14-30)

11 While the people were listening to this, Jesus proceeded to tell them a parable, because He was near Jerusalem and they thought the kingdom of God would appear imminently. **Notice the misconception. Look at Jesus' response: 12** So He said, "A man of noble birth went to a distant country to lay claim to his kingship and then return. **13** Beforehand, he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. (Note: One mina, or roughly one hundred days wages, to each) 'Conduct business with this until I return,' he said. **Sum up the nobleman's instructions? How specific are they? Why is that a problem?**

14 But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, 'We do not want this man to rule over us.'

15 When he returned from procuring his kingship, he summoned the servants to whom he had given the money, to find out what each one had earned. **Bill says this parenthesis represents our life for today, and our life in eternity. Take a moment. What parallels do you**

see? Who has left gifts and then gone away to procure his kingship? Can we see what He is doing? Can we know the day of His return? What is our responsibility? Why does it seem like there is no connection between the cross and His second coming? What is the connection? What is our responsibility? When does that responsibility begin?

16The first servant came forward and said, 'Master, your mina has produced ten more minas.'

17His master replied, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very small matter, you shall have authority over ten cities.'

18The second servant came and said, 'Master, your mina has made five minas.'

19And to this one he said, 'You shall have authority over five cities.'

20Then another servant came and said, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have laid away in a piece of cloth. **21**For I was afraid of you, because you are a harsh man. You withdraw what you did not deposit and reap what you did not sow.'

22His master replied, 'You wicked servant, I will judge you by your own words. So you knew that I am a harsh man, withdrawing what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? **23**Why then did you not deposit my money in the bank, and upon my return I could have collected it with interest?'

24Then he told those standing by, 'Take the mina from him and give it to the one who has ten minas.'

25'Master,' they said, 'he already has ten!'

26He replied, 'I tell you that everyone who has will be given more; but the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. **27**And these enemies of mine who were unwilling for me to rule over them, bring them here and slay them in front of me.'" Pastor Bill says it's time to shift our imperatives. Our imperative is no longer what Jesus did at the cross. Our imperative has to be preparing for His imminent return. **How does that work? Does it matter that we know what our role is, as these days unfold? How important is that? Now answer this question again: When does that responsibility begin? If we know we're already "good" and we're already "saved" and we can wrap that promise in a handkerchief, is that, in fact, enough? What calculation have we not made? What is missing according to this parable?**

Where does the mission of GCC fit in? "We are preparing to meet Jesus face to face. We are going out to save the lost, to equip the saved and to care for the least." How is this "preparing to meet Jesus face to face," between the cross and the return?

Bill says it's not always that he puts Jesus' priorities first in his life. His comfort gets in the way, but... ***"There is something more about Jesus' imminent return that gives me a sense of urgency." How does that work? What does this make you think? How would you behave differently, if you knew that you had exactly six days left before His return? Make a list of things you would prioritize***

Bill describes the various expectations of the end times and the tribulation. If you can do it without getting into an argument, describe what you think about the Tribulation, The Rapture and The Millennial Reign. Now answer this: How much difference has this knowledge made in your behavior? What would your spouse say? Does this knowledge change your priorities in any way? What would change them?

Pastor Bill takes us to what is called the "Bema Seat," or the "Judgment Seat of Christ." What do you know of that? What are the rewards Bill talked about? Where does "what you did between the cross and the return" enter in? Whose idea is it that the return on His investment be investigated and rewarded? What did the mina He gave you look like when you received it? What does it look like today? Talk about a real conversation you had where another looked at Christ differently afterward.

What is the reward for being faithful in little things? Talk about the notion of fairness, when what the one who does not have is taken away and given to the one who has. What are the qualifications for rule over cities?

Look up 1 Corinthians 3: ...2Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! How does this fit in what Jesus is saying concerning rule over cities? What is the qualification for judgment?

Look up Revelation 20: 4Then I saw the thrones, and those seated on them had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image, and had not received its mark on their foreheads or hands. And they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

⁵The rest of the dead did not come back to life until the thousand years were complete. This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

How did they qualify to judge? Do you see the parallel between what John saw here and what Jesus said?

Bill emphasizes, "This is not about power. This is about love. God sees your love, not by your words but by your love. ***Explain. Bill asks, "Are we living too much in the comfort of***

the cross, and not enough in the challenges of the days ahead?" Answer his question. How much is too much?

Pastor Bill quotes Psalm 37:4 "Delight yourself in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart." ***Explain. Does He give you your heart's desires? Or, when He is your delight, does He create in you all His heart's desires as they become your own?***

Bill says, "The desires of our hearts are expressed today in what we do and in how we live." ***Is that right? What does that look like? If you say, "I don't care to rule over ten cities," Pastor Bill asks, "What are you offering Him?" Is that fair? Bill says, "I want to serve Him so I can be next to Him. So I can be close to Him." What do you want? He adds, "When you delight in Him, you just want more of Him." What does this make you think?***

Jesus Weeps over Jerusalem

(Isaiah 29:1–16)

41As Jesus approached Jerusalem and saw the city, He wept over it ***42***and said, "If only you had known on this day what would bring you peace! But now it is hidden from your eyes. ***How do you think it became hidden from them? Did Jesus hide anything? What made the difference?*** ***43***For the days will come upon you when your enemies will barricade you and surround you and hem you in on every side. ***44***They will level you to the ground—you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God." ***Did this happen? How literally? What did the children of Jerusalem miss, in light of what Pastor Bill just taught? How important is it to pay attention?***

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

(Matthew 21:12–17; Mark 11:15–19; John 2:12–25)

45Then Jesus entered the temple courts and began to drive out those who were selling there. ***46***He declared to them, "It is written: 'My house will be a house of prayer.' But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"

47Jesus was teaching at the temple every day, but the chief priests, scribes, and leaders of the people were intent on killing Him. ***48***Yet they could not find a way to do so, because all the people hung on His words. ***What will it be for those who miss this message? If we are preparing to actually meet Jesus face to face, how will we be different from these? How will it be different for us?***

Take the time to pray.
