

## Love That Shines Through

May 11, 2020

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

We welcomed the conference gathering for clergy and laity singing the welcome song we would sing on Sundays.....“The Jesus in Me Loves the Jesus in You...Jesus in you loves the Jesus in me, It’s so easy.....Easy to Love....Keynote speaker and Church Consultant commented, our welcome song was a little corny, not really contemporary, but it seems as though you know it and believe it...

The French Poet Francois Coppée, was asked by someone if he knew any foreign languages. No he answered, “I’m engaged in studying French....I am not an expert on world religions or other denominations; I’m too busy engaged in trying to be a follower of Jesus and a United Methodist.”

In times like these O God, what would you have us to hear, what would you have us to do?

Aldersgate Sunday, in fact any Sunday is a good time to ask the question of our selves; “What is a disciple who is perfected in Love?”

In his 1742 Treatise the Character of a Methodist, John Wesley, acknowledges the limitation of the human condition. Wesley, “displays a profound optimism in what God’s grace can accomplish in the life of any and every child desiring to walk with greater integrity in the way of the gospel.” Our faith cannot be only a source of strength but an instrument of healing when perfected in Christ’s Love. To be a Methodist meant you must Love God with all your soul, mind, and strength. And love neighbors as you love yourself.

Wednesday, May 24, 1738, John Wesley experienced his heart that was strangely warmed. It was not only an important moment in his life but for the Wesleyan movement and its future as characterized by a religious movement of Head and Heart, Grace and Action.

John and Charles Wesley, formed a religious Holy Club at Oxford University because there was no spiritual vitality and discipline. Because of their methodical attention to prayer, studying scripture, and taking Jesus seriously as they lived on campus. They were jokingly called Methodist.

John and Charles got it right...in May of 1738, both of these brothers had heartwarming experiences, and though they had been passionate about the churches ministry, they had not accepted Jesus as their savior and known the joy and assurance of their faith. They had witnessed in their Moravian friends an unshakable faith and devotion like they had not seen before. They saw this when they first came to the American Colonies in Georgia, and in the midst of a storm on the sea when they all thought their ship would sink. The Moravians prayed and did not panic. After a short and what they considered an unsuccessful trip to America, the Wesley's returned to England where they came under the influence of Moravian Christians meeting in Aldersgate London. After hearing preface to epistle of Romans .... "About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed....I felt I did trust Christ and Christ alone, for salvation, and assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even Mine! And saved me from the law of sin and death." You talk about the freedom of clarity.....The power of the Holy Spirit at work in Wesley's heart to hear Gospel in a new way....

### **The Great Commandment Mark 12:28-34 (CEB)**

One of the legal experts heard their dispute and saw how well Jesus answered them. He came over and asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"

Jesus replied, "The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength.[a] The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself.[b] No other commandment is greater than these."

The legal expert said to him, "Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one's strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices."

When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, “You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.” After that, no one dared to ask him any more questions.

### **The Great Commandment Mark 12:28-34 (Message)**

One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question:

“Which is most important of all the commandments?”

Jesus said, “The first in importance is, ‘Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.’ And here is the second: ‘Love others as well as you love yourself.’ There is no other commandment that ranks with these.”

The religion scholar said, “A wonderful answer, Teacher! So lucid and accurate—that God is one and there is no other. And loving him with all passion and intelligence and energy, and loving others as well as you love yourself. Why, that’s better than all offerings and sacrifices put together!”

When Jesus realized how insightful he was, he said, “You’re almost there, right on the border of God’s kingdom.”

After that, no one else dared ask a question.

What commandment is the first of All? Jesus answers and makes it so clear.

Central confession of Judaism which Jesus shares as a confession of faith for us to receive as core commandment.

“Hear” The Lord our God ,is One! (Shema)

You Shall.....Love the Lord your God,

With all your heart, with all your soul,

With all your mind and with all your strength,

The second is this....You shall love your neighbor as yourself,

There is no other commandment greater than these!

2 commandments meant as one from Jesus.

No program agenda, No project agenda.....Love God, Love Neighbor!

Is there something more important? While sheltering in place, while praying for a breakthrough, a turn around a cure, a comeback?

Mark Sanborn, "How to succeed when times are up down, good bad, or sideways.....The greatest challenge as human beings is acting on what we know."

Some things we should do all the time.....

Paying attention to God-

Planting flowers-

Praising God... O for a thousand tongues to sing....

Both John Wesley and his brother Charles, had a passion and zeal that translated into working 15-18 hours a day, with thousands of miles on horseback conducting as many worship services as possible. Charles spent long hours writing hymns no less than 6,000 word hymn text. Kenneth Osbeck, Music Historian, "In 1749 on the occasion of Charles Wesley 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his own Aldersgate conversion experience wrote the Hymn, "*O For a Thousand Tongues.*" It is believed that Charles Wesley, was inspired by a chance remark by Peter Bohler, Influential Moravian Leader, who exclaimed; "Had I a thousand tongues, I would praise Christ Jesus with all of them." In the UMC Hymnal, this hymn has 7 stanzas....When first written, it had 19 stanzas and was entitled "For the Anniversary day of One's Conversion", most of the verses that were left out were personal testimonies about Wesley's own conversion experience.

"The Lord's atoning blood close to my soul applied...Me he Loved the Son of God, for me, for me, He died."

The Love of God poured inside of us...substance of our faith

Bishop, How can I stay centered, remain hopeful, much less joyful when our lives and way of living have been so disrupted?

Well I am glad you asked that question. I don't like how I feel when I see so many hurting and dying...Grace.....Grace.....

“By Grace We mean Love that comes to us and Love that Shines through Us”

Don't forget your assignment:

There is One Lord: “Love the Lord Your God.....not just a little bit or a little while....With your heart, With Your Soul, your mind and your strength! After you inhale and exhale. Go ahead and Love your neighbor as yourself.....A short Commandment with a long commitment. Deep commitment....

If I had a thousand tongues.....

I would praise God for being God, and Loving You and Me,

I would praise you for being the Church...

If I lived in Japan, I would probably say “Ari-Gato”,

If I Lived in France or DRC, I Might say “Mer Ci”,

If I lived In Nigeria, I Might say “Nagodi”,

If I lived Tanzania or Kenya, I Might say “Asante”,

If I Lived in Germany, I Might say “Dan Kah”,

If I lived In Brazil, I Might say “Oh-bree-gah doh”,

If Korean was my native tongue, I might say “Kahm- sah-Ham-nee da...Yesunim”,

If Spanish was my native tongue, I Might say “Gra-see-us”,

I live in Central Indiana...I have worshipped in the North and I have worshipped in the south...

If I had a thousand tongues I would still say Thank You!

Thank you pastors.....Thank you people....Thank doctors, nurses, teachers, and parents,

May our Kindness become contagious, generosity Outrageous....