

**TELECAST SERMON
FOR SUNDAY JANUARY 14, 2018
"LEARNING TO LIVE A LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS"
ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ TRUSTEE EDWIN SPROAT, SR.**

Thank you, Melvin!

People often focus only on life's problems, which causes them to put their personal concerns ahead of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. However, we must all remember the powerful message in the song entitled, "Put Jesus First in Your Life." And let us always remember to put Jesus Christ first and foremost in our daily lives, vice putting Him second, third, or lower in our daily priorities.

Many find it difficult to choose to be faithful to the Lord, even though we all know it is the correct choice. Therefore, please join me in the reading of today's sermon entitled, "Learning To Live A Life In Christ Jesus," to help us all learn to put Jesus Christ first in all things.

The Lord Jesus Christ through His Holy Word instructs all mankind, "Be ye ready, when ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Let us then ask ourselves, "Are we ready to meet Him?"

Today's sermon serves as an incentive to our television congregation to prepare ourselves for His Second Coming, although the day and time of His coming, remains unknown. Please get your Bible in hand and let us review God's Word together.

The Apostolic Faith Church here in Hawaii and the Philippines does not have any fund raising campaigns of any kind (such as selling things), or carnivals, fairs, bazaars, raffles and the like; nor do we have collections or soliciting of any kind. Instead, we have voluntary contributions, through tithes and free-will offerings from members and friends, and much daily Prayer, called knee drill.

We believe the Lord's Gospel Work is one of faith and trust solely in the Lord Jesus Christ. Since the founding of The Apostolic Faith Church in Hawaii, in 1923, and to this present day, the Lord Jesus Christ has provided all the sustenance needed to meet the expenses within His Gospel Work. And that is a miracle, indeed.

Therefore, we have come to realize that our attitude and approach to money must be dependent upon our faithfulness, Spirituality, and relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, as God Himself.

In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus Christ declared in Matthew 6:24, "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other, Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

The Lord Jesus Christ instructed His Saints saying that we cannot worship Him, and also serve the almighty dollar. He speaks directly to every man, woman, and child to avoid the temptation to serve the almighty dollar, and we must pay close attention in serving Him as our Lord and Savior, and the Almighty God.

Jesus Christ addressed the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18-23, "And a certain ruler asked him, saying Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother.

And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up. Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me. And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich."

Reading on in Luke 18:24-27, "And when Jesus saw that he was very sorrowful, he said, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the Kingdom of God!

For it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

Jesus Christ rebuked the sin of greediness in Luke 12:15 and 32-34, "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

The Lord Jesus Christ must remain in the forefront, and be the strength of our lives. As the Almighty God, He reigns over the entire universe, and when we believe and follow Him, He will keep us in His love and hope, to receive the promise for everlasting life in heaven above.

Paul also instructed all mankind in Romans 8:24-25, "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it."

Jesus Christ has the power, and willingness to transform our worst tragedies into wondrous victories, when we let Him have His way. However, many men, women, and children have refused to accept and follow the Lord Jesus Christ, and have allowed the problems of life to overtake their lives.

Therefore, I Timothy 6:9-10 adds this truth, "But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The Lord Jesus Christ will often allow sorrows to come upon us when we fail to serve Him, to remind us that we must draw ourselves back unto Him. For it is certain that we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out.

Men, women, and children become fools when they cease to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. God's Word, the Bible denotes that a fool is not a mentally deficient person, but rather one who has adopted an arrogant, and self-sufficient lifestyle, just as if there is no God.

And Luke 12:19-21 offers this mindset of certain successful people, "And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry.

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So, is he that layeth treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

The rich man was called a fool because he placed greater importance upon his wealth, than upon the salvation of his soul, and God's greater promise for eternal life in heaven above.

Jesus Christ was also tempted by Satan in the desert at the beginning of His Ministry, and was offered the choice to serve God, or money. However, the Lord Jesus Christ responded with the Word of God in answer to the temptation, and was obedient to His calling as God's Son, being willing to die on the Cross of Calvary.

He then paid the price of sin for you and for me, to redeem us from the eternal damnation to come, so that we can receive the gift of redemption, hope, and the resurrection of life.

Today, every man, woman, and child has been offered the very same choice to accept and serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore, we must make the right choice to choose the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only right Way, the Truth, and the Life.

And today, the Lord Jesus Christ is calling every man, woman, and child to accept His plan of salvation as written in Luke 24:47-48, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."

And in that day, there was a very noble and upright man named Nicodemus who came to speak with Jesus Christ under the cover of darkness to find out what he must do to be saved.

Let us join in to their conversation in John 3:2-4, "The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?"

Jesus Christ commanded Nicodemus and all mankind in John 3:5-7, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."

To be born of water means to be baptized by immersion in water in the name of Jesus Christ. And to be born of the Spirit means we must speak in God's unknown tongue or language as the evidence to prove that we have God's Holy Spirit within. Therefore, we come to know that baptism is essential to salvation.

Mark 16:16 also recites, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." Every man, woman, and child must choose today whom they will serve as their

Savior, either God, or mammon? The choice is ours alone to make, and in this life, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is only a prayer away.

Peter preached his Spirit-inspired sermon to the Jews in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost as stated in Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ."

Peter preached to the Jews that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah and Savior of mankind whom they rejected, and crucified. And through Peter's preaching, they were pricked in their hearts and spoke out saying, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

This very same question pertains to every man, woman, and child hearing the Gospel of the Kingdom of God being preached in today's Telecast sermon.

Peter boldly responded to the Jews in Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

God outpoured His Holy Spirit upon the 120 Believers who were tarrying in the Upper Chamber in Jerusalem for ten days as commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself.

And as they tarried, they were all filled with God's Holy Spirit, and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. And God's Holy Spirit formed the First Church on the Day of Pentecost, with Jesus Christ, Himself being the Head.

Peter then gave the greatest altar call of all time, and three thousand souls believed and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ, and were baptized by immersion in water in the name Jesus Christ, being filled with God's Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:41-42 and 46-47 adds this confirmation, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

And they continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking of bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and with singleness of heart. Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved."

Isaiah 43:11 also declares, "I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour."

This confirms Acts 4:12 referring to the saving name of Jesus Christ, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

Matthew 7:24 and 26, concludes Jesus Christ's Sermon on the Mount saying, "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand."

Today, we must accept the Lord Jesus Christ to become like the wise man who built his house upon the rock Christ Jesus. On the other hand, the foolish man built his house upon the sand, and it came tumbling down just like the walls of the City of Jericho.

And Psalm 49:16-20 adds this encouragement to all mankind, "Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers; they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish."

We live today in a very materialistic society with many temptations as stated in Matthew 7:21-23, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Today, many false prophets claim to be called of the Lord Jesus Christ, but they will hear the Lord Jesus Christ say unto them, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

One day Jesus Christ took Peter, James, and John to a high mountain by themselves to pray. It was, literally a mountain top experience which took place on Mount Hermon which is approximately 9000 feet high.

Today, some Holy Land tour guides may say it happened on Mount Tabor, which is only 1000 feet high. However, despite whether it was upon Mount Hermon, or Mount Tabor, we know with a surety that the Transfiguration did take place. Upon the solitary slopes of this high mountain, Jesus Christ, and His three disciples came alone to pray.

Jesus Christ had approached the turning point in His life and ministry, and His enemies were pressing hard upon Him. He then took the matter to prayer, to discern the will of His Father in Heaven.

Peter, James and John needed this time to seek guidance to better understand Jesus Christ's mission. Only six days earlier, Peter had responded to Jesus Christ saying, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." However, Peter and the others needed to pray for God's further guidance, and Spiritual insight.

Matthew 17:2-3, and 5-7 adds this exhortation, "And was transfigured before them; and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And behold, there appeared unto them, Moses and Elias talking with him.

While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased: hear ye him. And when his disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

And Jesus came and touched them, and said, Arise, and be not afraid." Moses, represented the Law and those who have slept in Jesus, and Elijah, represented the Prophets and those who will be Raptured when the trump of God sounds.

When a Child of God has a mountain top experience and feels the Presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, God Himself, it is very difficult to find words to describe it. The imagery of a cloud depicted the immediate presence of God's glory. The Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles climbed the mountain, and experienced in an intimate way, God's living presence.

Upon their descent from the mountain they were confronted by a Father pleading to the Lord Jesus Christ to heal his son in Matthew 17:14-21, "And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

And I brought him to thy disciples and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain,

Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." When we put our complete faith and obedience in Christ Jesus, He will make the impossible, possible, based upon the will of God in our daily lives.

Luke 9:23-28 concludes today's sermon topic, "And He said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away? For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels. But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."

Let us then be up-and-doing for the Lord Jesus Christ each and every day to be ready to hear Him call us up to meet Him in clouds of glory saying, "Come up Hither, Come up Hither, Come up Hither."

If you would like to learn more about God's Word and the Church, and view these telecast presentations in their entirety, please visit our website at <http://Jesuscomingsoon.org>.

Until our next telecast, this is your host, Associate Pastor/Trustee Edwin Sproat, Sr. expressing my sincerest appreciation to each of you, who have allowed us to come into your homes. May the good Lord bless and keep you all in the hollow of His hands.

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