

SERMON

"ANY GOD WILL DO"

05/30/21

Deut: 4:32-40

If you look at our world and our society today, it really is obvious that for the vast majority of people, any god will do. In a survey that came out a few years back, it stated that 98% of Americans say that they believe in God. However, in digging deeper, it was found that for many of them, their concept of God was so vague, that it didn't even come close to how the Bible describes the One True God.

Well, from what I have seen in my ministry, I would have to say that the survey was fairly accurate. For so many, it doesn't matter what the Bible says about God. They have their own opinions of who God is, and what He should be like. And this is not just individuals, but church bodies who are doing the very same thing. As I've shared with you many times, there are many mainline Christian denominations who have come up with what I call, "a pick and choose theology". That's where they keep what they like about the Bible, and throw out anything that goes against their way of thinking. And that is what I call the apostate church.

You see, for most people, they want to have God in hand, so they can mold and shape him into the kind of God they want Him to be, the kind who sees things their way. But folks, that's not the kind of God we need. We need a God who holds us in his hands, a God who is in control. The God who is always there for us; to forgive us, to protect us, and to lead us. We need a God who is bigger than all our problems, more powerful than our enemies, and whose love for us is unconditional. We need the God of Scripture.

Well, that is exactly what we are celebrating today on this Trinity Sunday. Today we are proclaiming that any god will not do. We are making it very clear that our Creator and Preserver, our Redeemer and Savior, our Counselor and Comforter is not just any god. He is our God. He is the One True God, and there is no other!

Now, I realize that making a statement like this is not politically correct. And I am sure that there are many today that would call me intolerant, a fundamentalist, and even a fanatic for making such a statement. Nevertheless, it is the truth. And as Jesus says in John's Gospel, "the truth will set you free". So, let's take a look at this. First of all, when it comes to creation, it is obvious that any god will not do. For the One True God has created this world, the universe and everything in it, including you and me. We are God's creation. This is a truth that is stated clearly in Scripture.

Well, here again, I realize that science, which really has become a god for so many, will dispute this. For example, science says that evolution is the truth. However, the only truth about evolution is that it is a humanistic religion that is not based on even one fact. It is simply a theory. In fact, in the book, "Evolution; A Theory In Crisis", which was written by an evolutionist and not a Christian, the author tells us that there is not one fact that can be proven in this theory of evolution. What that means is that, evolution is simply a humanistic religion that is based fully on the faith that people have in this theory. It is faith based, not science based.

Folks, for years science has been trying to unravel the mysteries about the world, the universe and mankind. And, in all that time, it has never disproved anything that the Bible has stated. In fact, it has done just the opposite. The more facts that science and archeology unravels, the more it supports what Scripture has stated. That is how amazing God is.

Moses really hit the nail on the head in that Deuteronomy passage that we read today. Listen again to his words. "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of". (Deut 4:32) He then went on to say, "know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on earth beneath; there is no other". (Deut 4:39)

Of course, Moses was speaking of how the Lord God, in His great power and love, brought the people of Israel out of Egypt, and led them into the land He promised them. The Lord did so many incredible amazing things

for them, purely out of this love, which they really didn't deserve, but He loved them anyway. He went to bat for them. He fought for them. And He brought them out of their slavery and into His freedom.

But what I want you to take hold of today is that, the Lord God, in that same power and love, has done the very same thing for you and me. Hold on to this truth; the Lord loves you and He loves me. Even though there is no way we deserve it, He still loves us. And in that love, He went to bat for us, He fought for us, and He brought us out of our slavery to sin and into His freedom.

You see, when it comes to our salvation any god will not do. The whole emphasis of our Christian faith is that God Himself intervened in Jesus to save us from the separation, the torment, and the death that sin causes in us. This is what Jesus accomplished in His sacrifice on the cross and in His triumphant resurrection. He became that peace offering which has restored us and brought us back into God's family, and back into this peace with Him.

The rest of the world just doesn't get it, because human nature tells them that they have to make things right. They just don't understand the Grace of God and all that He does out of that grace.

The truth is, Jesus has changed our lives completely. As sinful as we are (and each one of us knows our many sins), because of Jesus, we can actually know the Almighty God as our Father, our Dad. We can know His presence in our life. We can know His love, His forgiveness, His peace. And we can have this lasting hope that our life is in Christ now, and that life is eternal. Folks, is there anything greater that could ever happen to us? Alright then, are we living our life like this? Do we treat our Lord and all that He has done for us, as the greatest thing that could ever happen to us? Or do we treat this saving Gospel so casually, so matter-of-factly?

I want you to look at your life right now and ask yourself, "Has Jesus really had this kind of affect on my life?" Has He taken hold of my life and changed everything for me? Has He truly given me a new meaning, a new purpose, and new priorities?" "Has Jesus actually become the Lord and Ruler of my life, or is He just any god?"

Now, as you try to answer these questions, if you find that you are like me, and you are lacking in certain areas of your life, then ask yourself, how might this change? I say this because, if there are going to be changes in our life, then any god will not do. We need the One True God, the Triune God working in our life, bringing about these changes.

What I'm talking about is the Holy Spirit. Scripture tells us that, "no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor 12:36). It is the Holy Spirit working in our lives, who makes it possible for us to come to faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. But the Spirit doesn't stop there. That Spirit of God is with us every day to build us up in our faith, and to give us the different fruits and gifts to strengthen our relationship with the Lord and others, and to build up Christ's Church.

Last week you heard about the Holy Spirit flooding into the lives of those disciples and the people around them, literally changing their lives. Well folks, the Spirit has not lost His job. He is not collecting unemployment. He is here today, ready to work in our lives; to help us change those areas of our life that need to be changed; to strengthen our relationship with the Lord; to comfort us; to teach us; to empower us; and help us to stand strong in our faith. Understand, the Holy Spirit is very, very real, and He is so ready and willing to flood into all or our lives and bring about those changes that are so needed!

So many people are settling for any god, but for you and for me any god simply will not do. Every day we need the One True God in our life; Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the Triune God. This is the God who we worship here today. This is the God who loves us more than we can possibly imagine. This is the God who forgives us always, no matter what we have done, or how many times we have done it. This is the God who has made us His own; His family, His children, and given us Heaven as our home. This is the God who walks with us every single day of our life. This is the God who fills us with such peace, and joy, and hope.

Because of all of this, we can proclaim the very same thing that Moses proclaimed. "For ask now of the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on earth, and ask from one end of

heaven to the other, whether such a great thing as this has ever happened or was ever heard of"...."Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on earth beneath; there is no other." (Deut 4:32,39). And praise God for that. Amen