

The Fast that the Lord Wants

There is great teaching on these topics. I have used these in my studies for this message..

"ten shekles and a shirt" by Paris Reedhead

"Can on man make a difference" Bill Wilson

Texts:

Main Isaiah ch 58 6-11
Secondary Judges ch 17 and 18 (Micah and Levite)
 Numbers Ch 16 (The living and the dead)
 1 pet 4:11(Gods Glory)
 Luke 10:30(the good Samaritan)

Main Text:

Isaiah 58:6-11 King James Version (KJV)

6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.

9 Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

10 And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:

11 And the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

Putting in order.....

Isaiah ch 58 – we are about to fulfill this verse today.

1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. Raise your voice like a trumpet. Declare to my people their rebellion and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

How has what we do become all about our own Happiness? How has it come to pass that we measure worth through prestige or stature? How has it come to pass that success is measured through Numbers?

Our business is successful if it makes money, the more money the more success and the more stature and prestige.

Our art is successful if it is heard, bought, played, used by many, the more numbers of people that do those things with our art the more we are "successful"

Our ministry is measured by "how many people have been saved", "How many people are attending our church" "How many people are buying our products (for a preacher his product is his message).

What most seem to be doing.. Judge for yourself if it is you.

Isaiah ch 58

2 For day after day they seek me out; they **seem** eager to know my ways, **as if** they were a nation that does what is right and has not forsaken the commands of its God. They ask me for just decisions and seem eager for God to come near them. 3 '**Why have we fasted, they say,** and you have not seen it? Why have **we humbled ourselves,** and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, **YOU DO AS YOU PLEASE** and exploit all your workers. 4 Your fasting ends in quarrelling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. **You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.** 5 **Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a(ONE) day for people to humble themselves?** Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? **IS THAT WHAT YOU CALL A FAST, A DAY ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD?**

The roots of this type of thinking are found in two words.

Pragmatism and Humanism.

Pragmatism:

1. character or conduct that emphasizes practicality.
2. A philosophical movement or system having various forms, but generally stressing practical consequences as constituting the essential criterion in determining meaning, truth, or value.

In other words if it makes money or achieves prestige or stature It's successfully.

Humanism

1. a variety of ethical theory and practice that emphasizes reason, scientific inquiry, and human fulfilment...
2. a system of values and beliefs that is based on the idea that people are basically good
3. The doctrine that people's duty is to promote human welfare I.E. Happiness..

Basically that the end of all things should be for the happiness of man, self fulfilment. (self is at the center).

History of how Pragmatism and Humanism became the basic doctrines of humanity.

This is the doctrine that came through people like;

Albert Schweitzer,

OM (14 January 1875 – 4 September 1965) who had a main doctrine was called a reverence for life.. But was actually the birth of humanism as we know it.

He was a theologian, organist, philosopher, physician, and medical missionary in Africa, Schweitzer, was also known for his historical work on Jesus.

He was born in the province of Alsace-Lorraine, at that time part of the German Empire, considered itself French and wrote mostly in French. Schweitzer, a Lutheran, challenged both the secular view of Jesus as depicted by historical-critical methodology current at this time in certain academic circles, as well as the traditional Christian view.

He received the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize for his philosophy of "Reverence for Life",[1]

The phrase Reverence for Life is a translation of the German phrase: "**Ehrfurcht vor dem Leben**". **These words came to Albert Schweitzer on a boat trip on the Ogooué River in French Equatorial Africa (now Gabon), while searching for a universal concept of ethics for our time.**

Schweitzer made the phrase the basic tenet of an ethical philosophy, which he developed and put into practice. He gave expression to its development in numerous books and publications during his life and also in manuscripts which have recently been published; the main work being his unfinished four-part "Philosophy of Culture" (German: Kulturphilosophie) subtitled: "The World-view of Reverence for Life". He also used his hospital in Lambaréné in Gabon (Central Africa) to demonstrate this philosophy in practice.

Known to have the dirties operating room, because He refused to kill the microbe life that was present, even down to the cockroach which he would not kill but would catch and re release into the world in another location..

((dominion)) (this is not biblical, we are given dominion.) In Leviticus ch 15 it talks about how we are unclean unless we bath our bodies and wash our cloaths.

Charles Robert Darwin, FRS (/ˈdɑːrwɪn/;[1] 12 February 1809 – 19 April 1882)

was an English naturalist and geologist,[2] best known for his contributions to evolutionary theory.[1] He established that all species of life have descended over time from common ancestors,[3] and in a joint publication with Alfred Russel Wallace introduced his scientific theory that this branching pattern of evolution resulted from a process that he called natural selection, in which the struggle for existence has a similar effect to the artificial selection involved in selective breeding.[4]

Charles ***Darwin is centrally important in the development of scientific and humanist ideas***

Carl Jung (1875-1961)

Pioneer of Humanistic-Existential Psychology one of the Most Important psychologists of that era. Carl Jung is possibly one of the most important figures in psychology, he developed his own school of Analytical Psychology, and pushed the boundaries of psychodynamic theory much further than Freud ever could have expected, indeed further than Freud was prepared to accept; (iii) in humanistic psychology,

Some famous Humanist quotes you man know. See if you recognize them..

“A humanist is someone who does the right thing even though she knows that no one is watching.”

– Dick McMahan, New York humanist, 2004 (stolen from God's Word)

“Reason, Observation and Experience – the Holy Trinity of Science – have taught us that happiness is the only good; that the time to be happy is now, and the way to be happy is to make others so.”

– Robert Green Ingersoll, The Gods, 1876

“Do not do to others what you would not like for yourself.”

– Confucius, Analects, **C 500 BCE**

Humanism and Pragmatism in the Bible

Micah and the Levite Judges 17 and 18 "Whatever is Good for me"

Great message ten shekels.

Micah

Here Micah is just like the church today.. We have mixed a little of this and a little of that until the “True fast” is all but Gone.

Replaced by The Humanistic Doctrine and measured through Pragmatism.

Ex...

Hey let's fast just one day,

Hey lets fast just one type of food,

hey it makes me feel good to come to church, but i can't sacrifice anything that might make me uncomfortable.

Hey it's good to have someone agree and say yes to 5 things and I can feel good and be happy because I have lead someone to the Lord.

In the Church Especially in the U.S. we have taken a little of this doctrine and that until we get something that we think The Lord might like.

It's an equation. we ask do you believe five times they say yes five times and we say, **yay you are saved...**

Don't miss understand, I'm not saying it's wrong to do this I'm saying **the problem is in the foundations of why we are doing it.**

Text: Judges 18:20

Tell Back Story

Judges 18²⁰ **And the priest's heart was glad**; and he took the ephod and the teraphim and the graven image and went in the midst of the people.

The Levite sold out His calling, Sold out God, for what seemed of a good worth to him.

First, he went and sold himself to Micah, who had false idols mixed with the Lords stuff and worshiped it all, but didn't say a word as long as he got his 10 shekels and a shirt. When someone came along and was willing to pay more He went with them,

Problems that Humanism and Pragmatism Create.

There is no Loyalty to the Lord, No fulfillment of the Call of God, nothing of what the Lord say's even weighed in, but the gift and office of the Lord that He had was up for sale the Highest bidder, The Price for this-- **whatever made Him "Very Happy"**.

The Danites, they could not conquer the land that The Lord gave them so they said to themselves, Hey Lets go over here, to these peaceful unprotected people who are secluded from any help, where we won't really be found out until it's too late, and take by force what isn't ours and wasn't given to us by the Lord, but it's ok because the Priest that we bought says it's ok-- God is with us. Again whatever pleased them, which seem right in their own eyes.

1 Tim 6

2 And they that have believing masters, let them not despise them, because they are brethren; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Isaiah 58

4.You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high. 5 Is this the kind of fast I have chosen, only a(ONE) day for people to humble themselves? Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed and for lying in sackcloth and ashes? Is that what you call a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

The centre of the issue is we are **not** called for the people. We are **not** to do good to make us happy. **We are not to lead people to the Lord for the reason of the Happiness of man**, this carries no weight.

But we have got it down to a science. The science that-- as long as it's convenient for me it's what I'll do for the Lord. "Say yes to these 5 questions and your saved" then we can feel good about ourselves we have lead you to the Lord."

We do as little as possible and expect all the rewards that come from actually fulfilling the will of God for our lives.

Now that we can see the nature of sin in our lives, in our churches. It's not new, it's the same old problem, The children of Israel done it first...

Numbers chapter 16 this about the history of the Israelites in the wilderness..

((History)) ((the day before)) **Korah had incited and insurrection**, and got 250 men to follow including Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, And they tried to take over and do the offerings of the **priests under Aaron, earlier Miriam and Aaron had complained saying basically..** Moses you are not the only person God talks to and the Lord had to come down and straighten them out.. Now Korah got a bunch of followers to follow Him in this thing. **God opened up the earth and they were all swallowed up alive into the earth, just as Moses said would happen, now it's the very next day.**

What was it?. it's Humanism,
I'm important too,
I want to be at the center,
the end of all things is the happiness of man.

We are Missing it. The Story of Paris Redheads Trip to Africa

"Don't I deserve that which I have Purchased." Doesn't the Lord deserve to receive the rewards of His sufferings. "quoted ten shekels and shirt Paris Reedhead.

We Are Called, We are Gifted, We are Anointed, and yes God does it for the people, but We do it For The Lord, WE ARE SENT **FOR HIM**, BY HIM. NOT FOR THE PEOPLE or BY THE CHURCH. IT'S **HIS** WORK, IT'S **HIS** ANOINTING, IT'S **HIS** POWER, IT'S **HIS** PURPOSE. Its so easy to have a heart for people and leave the Lord out. But the end of that is to make us feel better about ourselves. Too make us happy in our own conscience.

That's' how the church in Isaiah 58 was doing it and the Lord didn't except it then and He won't except it now. So that verse,

The true fast.

Isaiah 58: 6 "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:

The Lord say's I have not chosen that Kind of thing, It's not about the people, it's not to make your life easy or happy. The Happiness of mankind is not the end of the plan, But it's me.

1 Pet. 4:11. "That God in all things may be glorified."

Isaiah 58 6"the Fast I (The Lord) have chosen"..

We must put that in order before we try to fulfill the next few verses. Then we go on. That word "Then" is an important word, but we will see that later in this text.

Isaiah 58 6 " to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? 7 Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them,(((and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?))

The easy ones... To share your food with the hunger

To clothe the naked.

To bring the poor into our homes.

The hard ones.... To loose the chains of injustice (wickedness)

To set the oppressed free and untie the cords of the yokes.

(break the addictions in our lives, get the things not of the Lord out of our lives... and once we've done that do the same for the people around us...

And this portion of scripture ends with this statement.

(((and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?))

Intro to Bill Wilson – a bus driver who started a church in the bronx

Bill Wilson "I've witnessed twenty-two murders during my time in New York, We've had staff members raped and killed. I've been stabbed twice. I've had two concussions and I have been shot, point-blank in the face." Yet, he will not leave, he is there to stay (Wilson 2012)

We don't want to get too close to the urgency.

(((and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?)) Means don't turn away from the horror, don't change the channel of all the dead babies floating down the river.. FEEL SOMETHING!!!

It's the sight of the need that creates the urgency. The urgency that prompts us to action. It's not comfortable, It's not Happiness. **There is DEATH EVERYWHERE.**

It is this urgency that causes one person to change the world for God.

The question was put to the minister. "Do you think that one person can make a difference in this thing?"

Continuing in numbers chapter 16:41-46

41 But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, "Ye have killed the people of the Lord."

42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation; and behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord appeared.

43 And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

44 And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying,

45 "Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment." And they fell upon their faces.

The Leaders Prayed..... I watched a movie about God transforming nations, they came to one conclusion. **What was the thing that prompted the great revival, the great transformation of God.. "He was invited" ..**

46 And Moses said unto Aaron, "Take a censer and put fire therein from the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation and make an atonement for them. For there has wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague has begun."

Mind Picture

See this in your mind.. Thousands of people all around you are dropping dead.. there is a wave from God going over the people killing them because the Lord has determined just to kill them all and start over with Moses and Aaron.

Moses... Hey Aaron I know you're a hundred years old, go take some fire in a censor and go out and stop the Lord from Killing the people.. Aaron... Ok Moses I'll get right on that.

47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and behold, the plague had begun among the people. And he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.

48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

And He stood between the Living and the Dead with the Fire in His hand. And when the wave of death got to where he was, it stopped! Just think about this, there is no difference between you and those lying on the ground dead, we are all just people, that wave is killing people by the thousands, I am just one person, no different than those who are all ready dead. Would you run out? The only difference is that fire from the altar. That's the only difference. That's the difference that made the difference to the Lord.

49 Now those who died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, besides those who died in the matter of Korah.

50 And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the plague was stayed.

What do you think. can one person make a difference..?

The good Samaritan.

Luke 10:30 And Jesus answering said, "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his raiment and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead.

31 And by chance there came down a certain priest that way. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side.

32 And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him and passed by on the other side.

33 But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was. And when he saw him he had compassion on him,

34 and went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn and took care of him.

35 And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host and said unto him, 'Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again I will repay thee.'

36 Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves?"

Think about the relationship between Samaritans and Jews..

What do you think. can one person make a difference..?

Joan of Ark....

IT's all about One Person, Hearing God's Call to Go Get some Fire. Run out to The Wave of Death and Stand between the Living and the Dead..

Not for the People, Not for yourself, But because the Lord Deserves US, He has Earn the right to be Honored by us, He Deserves the People that He Bought with His own Blood, His own Body. WE GO TO THEM FOR HIM.

The Measure of Success.

So after that what will be the measure of our success? To What ruler will we measure success? Will we stay with pragmatism, and humanism, whose ultimate goal is the happiness of man, and is measured by accomplishment? If Not them what? **I would say the Lord provides the Measure of Success and here it is.**

13 "If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day,

((doing as you please... Humanism, Pragmatism.. To do as you please for **the young Levite** was to sell out for whatever would end in happiness.. as humanism states..))

if you call the Sabbath a delight and the Lord's holy day honourable, and if you honour it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,

(Not doing whatever makes you happy-- but doing what makes the Lord Happy)

14 then you will find your joy in the Lord, and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.