

Shema Series
Sociopolitical Conversion
05/29/21
Newport News

Opening

-This series...

Recap

-I want the reflex of my heart to be one of obedience to God!

-rebellious - reluctant - reflexive

-(show the Shema diagram) (talk about this being a heart renovation)

-conversion simply means to change...

-(recap all the definitions...)

- **Affective Conversion happens when a person takes personal responsibility for his or her emotional healing and development.**
- **Intellectual Conversion involves taking responsibility for the truth or falsity of one's beliefs by examining and testing them.**
- **Moral Conversion means being responsible to cultivate habits that embody the moral virtues one has embraced and to live according to a broader social responsibility.**
- **Religious Conversion* begins by making a vow of devotion to Jesus and confessing Jesus' right to have authority over every aspect of my life.**
- **Sociopolitical Conversion involves accepting responsibility to seek the good for all humans and to work strategically with others to challenge and convert the wider world as well.**

Introduction

-Luke 24:13-18, 28-35

- Conversion is often gradual
- Conversion necessitates community
- Conversion relies on Jesus' truth
- Conversion starts with "me"
- Conversion moves to "us"

-Sociopolitical Conversion involves accepting responsibility to seek the good for all humans and to work strategically with others to challenge and convert the wider world as well.

-Social and Political are the terms we use here not because we are talking about changing the way we think about society and politics (that's IC). SPC is about shifting my mindset away from only "me" toward always "we."

-Have we embraced an American dream at the expense of displacing and supplanting a superior Biblical narrative?

Abraham

-Genesis 12:1-3

-American Dream: "The ideal by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, allowing the highest aspirations and goals to be achieved."

-Emma Lazarus 1883 poem The New Colossus (Statue of Liberty)

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

-Abrahamic Covenant: Unmerited divine favor is bestowed upon the recipient for the purpose of blessing and serving others in the name of Jesus.

-Galatians 3:29

-Genesis 15:8-12, 17-18a

-I'm not belittling or even criticizing the American Dream. What I am saying is that we must not allow a noble yet lesser dream to supplant a more superior divine covenant!

Breakdown & Breakthrough

-Moses in Pharaoh's House

-“Conversions often follow a pattern popularly referred to as breakdown/breakthrough. A breakdown occurs when the habitual way of interpreting events or behaving can no longer adequately account for certain experiences or feelings. When someone in breakdown decides to take responsibility for resolving the issue, a breakthrough occurs. A breakthrough opens a new way of looking at the universe; it gives one new eyes and ears.”

-Matthew 5:21, 27, 31, 33, 38, 43

-“You have heard that it was said...but I say to you.”

-Matthew 28:18-20

-Has an American cultural attitude created a filter over Scripture?

-Do we see the Great Commission as serving or winning?

-Are we mistaking Christ's authority over us for our authority over others?

-(article from The Christian Post)

-My complaint with this pastor's perspective is that he is representing his viewpoint as being motivated by helping others. When in reality he is saying that what others need is more of what benefits him...he needs a breakdown and a breakthrough!

The Last Supper

-(describe setting)

-John 13:1-5

>when we understand who we come from and where we are going after this life, we are no longer afraid to serve others. We don't feel such a driving need to compete with others...our identity and security comes from knowing God created us and that Heaven waits for us.

-John 13:6-11 (why He washes our feet)

>Jesus saying "your feet only" is His way of warning against Universalism. Jesus is telling us His death will cleanse us of our sin BUT we must come to Him. Salvation is still by grace. But that grace is not appropriated until I come to Him with a vow of my devotion.

-John 13:12-15 (why we wash the feet of others)

>We are commanded to wash each other's feet because someone who has been saved should always be someone who now serves. This command by Jesus was because He knows that human nature always drifts toward rugged individualism.

Band

-We are in love with Communion because Jesus is easy to love, and we easily celebrate what we gain from His death. We neglect washing the feet of others because people are often unlovable, and we don't easily celebrate putting the needs of others ahead of our own.

Close

-But Fred, if I see society and politics dramatically different from someone else, how can I be friends with them? How can I be in the same church with them? Whenever we feel that way, ask yourself what Jesus was thinking when He invited both a tax collector and a zealot to be two of the 12? They embraced a covenant over a dream!