

The Sanctified Life

Sermon at Bowman Hills on July 3, 2010

What makes something holy?

Ground – Ex. 3:5, Joshua 5:15 (“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.”)

God – Lev. 21:8 (“I the LORD am holy”)

Priests – Lev. 22:9 (“I am the LORD, who makes them holy.”)

Israel – Eze. 37:28 (“Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.”)

Temple – Ex. 29:43, 2 Chron. 7:16 (“there also I will meet with the Israelites, and the place will be consecrated* by my glory.”) (“I have chosen and consecrated this temple so that my Name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there.”)

** Same Hebrew word as sanctify and holy in other texts*

Sabbath – Gen 2:3; Ex. 31:14 (“And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy”) (“Observe the Sabbath, because it is holy to you.”)

Us – Ex 31:13; Lev. 20:8 (“Say to the Israelites, ‘You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.’”) (“I am the LORD, who makes you holy.”)

Question: Can it be? Does God really want to come so close to us that His presence makes us holy?

Answer: Rev. 3:20 “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.”

Attributes of a Sanctified Life:

- Look at the life of Daniel
- Goals
 - Further explore the link between holiness and God's presence
 - Find application to our lives
 - Discover how we can experience a life sanctified by God

Attribute #1: Make a Choice

1. Brief intro (Judah overthrown, captives brought to Babylon)
2. Read Daniel 1:3-5, 8
3. "But Daniel purposed in his heart" – reminiscent of Joshua, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (Joshua 24:15).
4. Daniel didn't compromise, even on the "small" requirements. Could have rationalized:
 - "food is such a minor requirement,"
 - "it isn't a salvation issue"
 - "how can I be of influence, if I am kicked out, or dead?"
5. Daniel understood that ...
 - Small decisions form the trajectory of our life. Luke 16:10 reminds us that "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much."
 - Daniel understood that ... God is a "jealous God" (Ex. 20:5). That He wants all of our allegiance – not just what it is convenient.
 - Daniel understood that ... the approval of God was worth far more than the approval of man.
6. *More than just happenstance: physical and moral powers are linked.*
 - *1 Peter 2:11 tells us to "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul."*
 - *Gluttony is a form of selfishness and as such it is antithetical to a sanctified life.*
7. **Response:**
 - Read Dan. 1: 15-16
 - God rewarded Daniel's faithfulness
 - "Them that honor me, I will honor" (1 Samuel 2:30).
 - GT story of Adventist lifestyle making a difference

Attribute #2: Rely on the Power of Prayer

1. Read Daniel 2:1-5, 10-18
2. Prayer with fellow believers
 - “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them” (Matt. 18:20).
 - “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:24-25).
3. **Response:**
 - Read Dan. 2:19
 - God revealed the mystery to Daniel

Attribute #3: Trust Totally, Completely in God

1. Brief intro to Fiery Furnace
2. Read Daniel 3:16-18
3. Child-like trust – complete; adult-like trust – not linked to outcome
4. **Response:**
 - Read Dan. 3:25
 - God Himself comes to the aid of the Three Worthies.

Attribute #4: Act with Integrity

1. Read Daniel 6:1-5

2. Have you ever felt your work is for naught?
 - God can use you anywhere; sometimes our most important duty to God is doing our job to the best of our ability, working hard with honesty and integrity. Sometimes that is the biggest witness we can have.
 - Personal reflections

3. Read Daniel 6:10
 - Doesn't do something different from the norm
 - Would only have been possible if he had already been in the habit of praying
 - Praying in the bad times only is not an attribute of integrity or sanctity.
 - Mrs. White states it this way: "A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity..." (PK 545).

4. **Response:**
 - Read Dan. 6:21-22
 - God sends His angel.

Attribute #5: Seek Understanding

1. Read Daniel 9:2, 10:2-3

2. We are not to sit ideally by waiting for a lightening bolt.

3. **Response:**
 - Read Dan. 9:20-21 – Gabriel comes to Daniel.
 - In Dan. 10: 4-6, Jesus Himself comes to Daniel.

A Final Note:

1. Read Daniel 10:7-8 “And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength.” (KJV)
2. “Those who are really seeking to perfect Christian character will never indulge the thought that they are sinless. Their lives may be irreproachable, they may be living representatives of the truth which they have accepted; but the more they discipline their minds to dwell upon the character of Christ, and the nearer they approach to His divine image, the more clearly will they discern its spotless perfection, and the more deeply will they feel their own defects....Sin appears to them exceedingly sinful.” (SL 7, 10)
 - “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does” (John 5:19).

Summary:

1. What does this mean for us today?
2. Living a Sanctified Life is not just an old testament
 - Hebrews 12:1-2: “...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
3. How do we accomplish this?
 1. **Make a Choice**
 2. **Rely on the Power of Prayer**
 3. **Trust Totally, Completely in God**
 4. **Act with Integrity**
 5. **Seek Understanding**

1 Thess. 5:23: “May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”