



The Well

an ordinary place
where extraordinary
things happen

STSA.CHURCH/THEWELL

*DID JESUS REALLY
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DID JESUS REALLY
SAY THAT?*

DID JESUS REALLY SAY THAT?

PART 1: LOVING OUR ENEMIES

“For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” -James 1:23-25

**WE WON'T _____ KNOWLEDGE
FOR _____ .**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.” -Matthew 5:38-41

**ALWAYS _____ WITH
_____ LOVE.**

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” -Matthew 5:43-48

_____ IS THE _____ FOR BITTERNESS.

“But perhaps you will object, saying within yourself, 'Christ was God, but I am a frail man... you speak rightly: for the mind of man easily slides into wrong doing. Nevertheless, I say, The Lord has not left you destitute of His compassion and love: He is by your side, yes even within you, by the Holy Spirit: for we are His home, and He lodges in the souls of them that love Him. He gives you strength to bear nobly whatever may come, and to courageously resist the attacks of temptations.” -St. Cyril of Alexandria

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- Can you think of examples in your spiritual life where you substitute knowledge for obedience?
- Can you think of examples where you “retaliated” in love rather than vengeance?
- What are the main obstacles or challenges to loving your enemies? Do you think there’s room for prayer to really make a difference?

DID JESUS REALLY SAY THAT?

PART 2: DO NOT WORRY

“Therefore **do not worry** about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

-Matthew 6:34

“Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails
and the fields produce no food,
though there are no sheep in the pen
and no cattle in the stalls”

- Habakkuk 3:17

IT'S NOT ABOUT THE _____
IT'S ABOUT THE _____ .

“If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?”

- Exodus 33:15

WHAT DISTINGUISHES MY LIFE FROM EVERYONE ELSE'S?

GOD'S NOT INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING MY
FUTURE VISION, HE'S INTERESTED IN

“**But** seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added to you.”
- Matthew 6:33

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- Can you think of things in your life that are a higher priority than God's presence?
- What roadblocks are preventing you from allowing God to develop a root system in your life?
- Why is it easier to focus on the destination rather than the journey?

DID JESUS REALLY SAY THAT?

PART 3: DENYING YOURSELF

**WE WON'T _____
KNOWLEDGE FOR _____.**

“Then He said to them all, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

- Luke 9:23

_____ FIRST, _____ SECOND, _____ LAST

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death even death on a cross!” -Philippians 2:3-8

“For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and is himself destroyed or lost?” -Luke 9:24-25

IF WE _____ OURSELVES, WE WILL REMAIN _____ .
IF WE _____ OURSELVES, _____ WILL _____ US.

HOW OFTEN DO I BRING _____ INTO MY _____ ?

WHO IS AT THE _____
OF MY _____ ?

“Give up your self, and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, death of your ambitions and favorite wishes every day and death of your whole body in the end: submit with every fiber of your being, and you will find eternal life...Look for yourself, and you will find in the long run only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin, and decay. But look for Christ and you will find Him, and with Him everything else thrown in.” -C.S. Lewis

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- What do you think of when you first think of self denial? How did your view change after today's talk?
- Do you think it's easy to bring God into your decisions? What stops us from doing so?
- What practical steps can I take today to make God first, others second, and me last?

DID JESUS REALLY SAY THAT?

PART 4: THE CAMEL & THE NEEDLE

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think” -Ephesians 3:20

TRUSTING IN RICHES DEPRIVES US FROM _____

But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” -1 Timothy 6:9-10 NKJV.

TRUSTING IN RICHES DISENGAGES OUR HEARTS FROM _____ AND FROM OUR _____

“Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.” -1 Timothy 6:17-19

CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE FROM _____ RIGHTS TO _____ RESPONSIBILITIES

FOUR TIPS

1. PRACTICE _____

"But godliness with contentment is great gain" -1 Timothy 6:6

2. DON'T BE GIVEN TO _____

"It taught by example that the most pitiable person of all is the one who lives in luxury and shares his goods with nobody." -St. John Chrysostom on Wealth and Poverty p. 57

3. _____ GENEROUSLY

"who gives to all generously and without reproach" -James 1:5

4. DON'T FOSTER _____

fix [your] hope "on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy" -1 Timothy 6:17

"WITH MEN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE." -MATTHEW 19:26

THINK/TALK IT OVER

- Can you think of examples in your life where you can practice contentment and gratitude?
- Can you think of practical things you can do to be more sensitive to the needs of others?
- What are the main obstacles or challenges to giving generously? Can putting your trust in God and overcome these challenges?

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TO YOUR MODERN WORLD

STSA Church was established in April 2012 with a mission to "bring an ancient faith to a modern world." We attempt to do that by presenting the depth and richness of our Orthodox Christian faith, in a way that's relevant and applicable to life in the 21st century.

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