

Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007

**‘Nothing in Me...’ Part One**

1). In the midst of the Lord telling His disciples of His impending death and promising them the comfort of the Holy Spirit who will guide them into all truth, we find Him making this statement in - Joh 14:28 ¶ *"You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. 29 "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. 30 "I will no longer talk much with you, for **the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.** 31 "But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.*

2). The ruler of this world – Greek ‘Archon’ = original ruler of this world

- a). This world = the period of time from Adam to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.
- b). Is coming – and he – Satan – has nothing in Christ.
- c). Satan has nothing in time, space or relationship – in Christ.
- d). In other words there is no point of contact, no common ground between them.

3). Nor would we expect there to be.

- a). Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God – the second person of the trinity – God the Son

- b). 2Co 6:14b....*For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? 15 And what accord has Christ with Belial?*

- c). 1Jo 1:5 ¶ *This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.*

- d). Jesus is ‘the seed of the woman’ promised in Genesis 3:15

- e). The sin nature we all possess is passed through the male lineage. Therefore being the seed of the woman, not the Man, Christ comes in the likeness of sinful flesh, but without sin – having instead the nature and character of His heavenly Father - Joh 14:9b...*He who has seen me has seen the Father.*

- f). We may know from this then that everything surrounding the birth, death, and resurrection of the Lord is the fulfillment of God’s plans and

purposes – there is no sense in which we could see Satan playing an obstructive role in God's plans. Satan's involvement would be that which God permits to fulfill His purposes.

4). Although Satan had nothing in Christ, this same thing cannot be said of ourselves.

a). We know that all those procreated from Adam onwards are in Adam's likeness - Ge 5:3 *And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.*

b). All are born with an unredeemed spirit - Eph 2:5 *even when we were dead in trespasses*

c). An unredeemed soul - Eph 4:22b...*the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts,*

d). And an unredeemed body apart from the glory - Ro 8:23 *Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.*

e). But the good news of course is that God has set in place through the death and resurrection of His Son, everything that is necessary for the redemption of all three parts of our being. Beginning with the free gift of eternal life, the redemption of our spirit, what we refer to as being born again.

5). Let us remember our foundation in respect of this new birth in – Ge 1:3 ¶ *Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening and the morning were the first day.*

a). This is where we see a separation of light and dark, but the darkness is not eradicated, it remains still.

b). And remember the first generation of Israel who are redeemed from the bondage of Egypt, eternally saved, but then having to deal with the sin that was in their lives still – pictured in the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

i/ Their sin nature of course finally leading to their overthrow in the wilderness after the events of Kadesh Barnea.

c). And note this scripture in - Ga 5:17 *For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

d). Although the free gift of eternal life has completely and irrevocably redeemed our spirit, our unredeemed soul and unredeemed body

remain. Although we need no longer be slaves to sin we still have a sin nature that gives us the propensity to sin.

6). Therefore we will realize that because of our ever present sin nature that we were born into this world with - Ro 7:24 *O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?*

a). We will realize that our first birth – that which is born of the flesh, our sin nature – is inextricably connected to this world and therefore to the ruler of this world, putting it in opposition to the things of God –

Jas 4:4 *Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

b). Ga 4:30 *Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."*

c). Nothing connected with our first birth – the son of the bondwoman – will have any inheritance in the Kingdom – only that emanating from our new birth – the son of the free woman.

c). We can conclude then, that because of our ever present sin nature, Satan may have many points of contact in us – it would be true to say that the ruler of this world has something in us - the deceitful lusts of our ‘old man’.

7). If we revisit an incident in the ministry of Jesus we will hopefully gain some insight into this - Mt 16:21 ¶ *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. 22 Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" 23 But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." 24 ¶ Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 25 "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.*

a). v21 – We see the revealing of God’s purpose in relation to His death and resurrection – that which the scriptures had taught quite plainly – Remember Luke 24.

b). v22 – Peter contradicts that which the Word made flesh and written says.

c). v23 – Because of this Jesus equates Peter with Satan. Peter’s comments of v22 align him with the ruler of this world – and why? Because he is not mindful of the things of God, but rather he is mindful of the things of men.

i/ There is that which God has said and made plain from the beginning and then there is that which man has to say about things and the two are in opposition. One is Spiritual and the other carnal.

ii/ We will note that this is Peter, a man who is eternally saved, a disciple of Christ, who just a few short verses before this incident had received the revelation from above that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. And yet in almost the next breath he aligns himself with Satan

i/ Here choosing to exalt his own agenda above that of God.

ii/ I am sure we can appreciate the ramifications of doing such a thing.

d). v24-26 – See Christ following this rebuke with a teaching concerning dying to self – which within our context would primarily have to do with aligning our mindset and actions with the things of God – *2Co 10:5 casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,*

i/ The obedience of Christ - Lu 22:42 *saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."*

e). Then v27 – brings us to the Judgment Seat of Christ – bringing all into the context of the Millennial Kingdom.

8). And here is another incident we should give consideration to. An event that takes place on the night of the Last Supper - Mt 26:20 *When evening had come, He sat down with the twelve. 21 Now as they were eating, He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, one of you will betray Me." 22 And they were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"*

a). What we need to see on this occasion is not so much the fact of the Lord’s betrayal, but the disciples response to its announcement - *22 And they*

*were exceedingly sorrowful, and each of them began to say to Him, "Lord, is it I?"*

b). Judas Iscariot at this point was not the obvious candidate – there had been nothing to distinguish him from any of the others.

c). And remember Judas was one of the twelve - Mt 10:5 ¶ *These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

d). Judas was eternally saved – heard the message of the Kingdom and performed signs, wonders and miracles in relation to this.

d). Yet despite this it is Judas who betrays Him – And why?

e). Mt 26:14 ¶ *Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.*

f). He was more mindful of the things of men – ‘what will you give me’, than the things of God.

g). Now look at the Lord’s comment on this - Mt 26:24 *"The Son of Man indeed goes just as it is written of Him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born."*

h). It is often taught that this has eternal consequences, which must clearly not be the case – rather this has Kingdom consequences.

i). When Judas stands before Christ as his Judge this will be a reality Heb 10:26 *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, 27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.....31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*

j). What we need to see is that Judas was not a lost person, nor was he inherently more evil than anyone else, nor was he demonically possessed – every Christian, including us have the potential to be a Judas. We just prefer not to see it.

9). And of course let’s not forget Peter on the night of the Lord’s betrayal.

a). Mt 26:34 *Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you that this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 35 Peter said to Him, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" And so said all the disciples.*

b). And as we know Peter does deny Him three times – not a lost person, not someone ignorant of the message of the Kingdom, but the same Peter who was on the Mount of Transfiguration.

c). *Lu 22:59 Then after about an hour had passed, another confidently affirmed, saying, "Surely this fellow also was with Him, for he is a Galilean." 60 But Peter said, "Man, I do not know what you are saying!" Immediately, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. 61 And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." 62 So Peter went out and wept bitterly.*

d). Here we have a most poignant picture of events that will take place at the Judgment Seat in relation to those who deny Christ

e). *Mt 10:33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.*

*Re 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

f). We see the Lord turning to look at Peter – remember His eyes like a flame of fire – then Peter leaving the lighted courtyard – going into the darkness outside and weeping bitterly in realization of what he had done.

g). *Mt 25:30 'And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'*

h). And what reason do we have for Peter's denial of his Lord? And the desertion of the other disciples? They at this point had a greater fear of man than of God. They were mindful of the things of men, not the things of God.

10). And let us not overlook the religious leaders of Jesus' time. Those who sat in Moses Seat, who taught the scriptures, who fasted, who prayed, who, to the average person of that day, 'loved the Lord'.

a). Yet what do we find - *Mt 23:23 "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*

b). We find a focus on religious performance rather than faithful obedience

c). And religious performance of itself focuses on only one place – on the things men, not the things of God

*Mr 7:5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with*

*unwashed hands?" 6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 "For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men--the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."*

d). And this ultimately results in the following condemnation -

e). Joh 8:44 *"You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do.*

f). Ultimately religious performance will lead to an alignment with Satan – even though the scribes and the Pharisees would have been convinced they were Godly men.

g). Again what do the scriptures say - Jas 1:22 *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*

h). Deceiving ourselves into believing that we ‘love the Lord’ but proving in our practice that we are more closely associated with our enemy.

i). Joh 14:21 *"He who has My commandments [Hearers] and keeps them,[Doers] it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him."*

j). Please let us never forget that it will be our faithful obedience at the Judgment Seat that will be judged – our doing of the word. How shocking in that day to find ourselves a son of the devil rather than a son of God.

11). Let us return to the foundations in Genesis once more. We will remember that there were two trees specifically mentioned in the Garden - Ge 2:9 *And out of the ground the LORD God made every tree grow that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

a). The tree of life – the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

b). We will note that they are both trees and both are located in the Garden of Eden and both produce fruit.

c). The distinction between them is found in the consequence of eating from them.

d). One produces life – And this contextually must have to do with God’s purpose for creating Man – it must have to do with rulership and the 7<sup>th</sup> Day

e). And the other produces death, which contextually must have to do with exactly the same thing – rulership and the 7<sup>th</sup> Day.

f). The tree of TKOGAE was not unpleasant to look at and seemingly its fruit did not taste bad – there was nothing outwardly that appeared wrong with it.

g). However, Satan’s positioning at this tree and his enticement to eat from it, and the consequences of eating from it would more closely align this tree with him than with God – And Satan as we know became wise in his own eyes rather than being mindful of the things of God - Isa 14:13 *For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north;*

h). Good= Hebrew – *towb* = a good thing. A good man or woman

i). Evil = Hebrew – *ra* = from a root meaning to make good for nothing

j). So perhaps we can see in the eating from the tree the exercise of judgment apart from the Word of God as to what or who is good, making good for nothing the Word of God. In essence exalting man’s wisdom above God’s – how many times have we heard in direct contradiction to scripture, ‘my God wouldn’t do that’? – Being mindful of the things of men, not the things of God.

k). And we can see this whole matter again from another perspective with regards to Israel in the wilderness – God having provided all that was necessary for food on their way to the land of promise in the Manna from heaven, but the nation grew tired of this, longing instead for what they ate in Egypt – being mindful of the things of men not the things of God.

Nu 11:5 *"We remember the fish which we ate freely in Egypt, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; 6 "but now our whole being is dried up; there is nothing at all except this manna before our eyes!"*

k). And isn’t this exactly what we have seen in respect of Peter and Judas and the scribes and Pharisees and isn’t this at the very heart of being a hearer and not a doer of the word? – Rejecting the Bread of Life that came down from heaven, preferring to eat cucumbers – being mindful of the things of men, not the things of God.

12). Jas 3:13 ¶ *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. 17 But the wisdom that is from*

*above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

(Teach this)

13). As we come together to celebrate the Lord's Supper this morning we will be eating that which speaks of His body and drinking that which speaks of His blood.

a). Will we use this as an opportunity to confirm before the Lord that we are going to choose to be mindful of the things of God and not the things of men?

b). Even if it means changing our minds and changing our actions.

c). To close, remember what the Lord said - Joh 6:53 *Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.*