

“When You Say ‘I Do.’”

Matthew 21:28-32, Isaiah 29:13-16

June 12, 2016

1. We should \_\_\_\_\_ what we \_\_\_\_\_.

Matthew 5:37 ***But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*** (NKJV)

Isiah 29:13 ***The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.***

Luke 6:46 ***“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”***

2. We renounce \_\_\_\_\_ and its power in the world which defies God’s righteousness and love.

I Peter 5:8-9 ***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup> Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

James 4:7 ***Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

3. We renounce the ways of \_\_\_\_\_ that separate us from the love of God.

Matthew 4:17 ***From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”***

Ephesians 4:22-24 ***You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup> to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup> and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.***

4. We turn to \_\_\_\_\_ and receive Him as our Lord and Savior.

**John 1:12-13** *Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.*

5. We intend to be Christ's faithful \_\_\_\_\_, obeying His Word and showing His love until our lives' ends.

**Matthew 16:24-26** *Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"*

**Matthew 12:49-50** *Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."*

**Matthew 10:1** *Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

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■ The Lord is not impressed by religious ritual and pretence.

■ Parable of the two sons in context.

- Palm Sunday, “Hosanna!”
- Cleansing the Temple (den of robbers. Jeremiah 7:11)
- Cursing the fig tree
- Authority challenged.

1. We should do what we promise.

Matthew 5:37 ***But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes,’ and your ‘No,’ ‘No.’ For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.*** (NKJV)

Isaiah 29:13 ***The Lord says: “These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.***

***Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.***

Luke 6:46 ***“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?”***

■ This morning Kristin and Kofi are going to take or renew sacred vows before God.

■ Sacred vows, like wedding vows only more important.

■ Each member of this congregation has made the vows.

■ What do these vows mean?

2. We renounce evil and its power in the world which defies God's righteousness and love.

I Peter 5:8-9 ***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.***

James 4:7 ***Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

- Many of the early Christians came from pagan religions, where they worshipped false gods.
- There are false gods in our culture, too!
- Materialism or Mammon, Racism, Sexual confusion etc.

→ So do you renounce evil and its power in the world which defies God's righteousness and love?

3. We renounce the ways of sin that separate us from the love of God.

Matthew 4:17 ***From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."***

Ephesians 4:22-24 ***You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; 23 to be made new in the attitude of your minds; 24 and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.***

- In one sense the change is sudden. It's a new orientation in life.

- In another sense, the change is gradual. “Sancitification is a process.”
- We recognize that there is a better way,
- So we turn away from everything that separates us from God’s amazing love.

→So do you renounce the ways of sin that separate you from the love of God?

4. We turn to Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Lord and Savior.

John 1:12-13 ***Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup> children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.***

- It’s about **Jesus Christ**.
- He is the way, the truth and the life.
- The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus Christ. So our focus is on Jesus, not the Spirit.
- Gospel

→So do you turn to Jesus Christ and receive Him as your Lord and Savior?

5. We intend to be Christ’s faithful disciples, obeying His Word and showing His love until our live’s ends.

- What does it mean to be a disciple? A few verses from **Matthew**.
- First, it costs everything.

Matthew 16:24-26 ***Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. <sup>26</sup> What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?***

- So live sacrificially for Christ.
- Life of devotion. ACTIONS on the back of the bulletin.  
You don't have anything more important to do!
- But there are great rewards. For example, we become Jesus' family.

Matthew 12:49-50 ***Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup> For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”***

- And what's more, He empowers us to continue His world-changing work.

Matthew 10:1 ***Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.***

**→So do you intend to be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying His word and showing His love until your life's end?**

- You've made promises. So you're already not like the second son.
- God help us not to be like the first son.
- God, help us not to draw close to God with your lips but keep our hearts far from You.

- Kristen and Kofi, you have said you want to take or renew these joyous, life-changing, world-defying vows.
- And you have said that you want to raise Gareth to renounce evil and sin, and to turn to Jesus Christ and follow Him.
- We will help you with our prayers.
- We pray you will find a church in New York to help you grow in those promises.
- The Holy Spirit will work in Gareth, pointing him to Jesus.
- If that's what you mean, bring that little child of the covenant up here!