Message

01/10/2015

Something is better than Nothing

Good Morning Church!
It’s great to be in the House of the Lord! AMEN!

I pray that the spirit has moved you this morning.

Last week I was not feeling good and I thank you for your prayers.

I went to the Doctor Thursday for my yearly checkup and got a tetanus shot!
I don’t know about you but I am a big Baby when it comes to getting shots.
There is just something about that little needle piercing my flesh that makes me cringe.
I think sometimes I would rather have a limb removed than to get a shot!
Anyone with me on that!
Well today’s message is entitle

SLIDE “Something is better than Nothing”

I was given the vision of this message in the study video that I watched by Francis Chan about communion.
And although His message was about Communion... when He made the statement “Something is better than nothing” It immediately struck me...
And it dawned on me that so many people in our culture have taken on the “something is better than nothing” attitude or mentality that we have lost a generation of fully committed individuals.
And they are just not committed to “something” but they are not committed to “anything” but their own selfishly desires to do whatever they want!

And for them being in Church or following Christ...well that’s not even in the picture!
By the way ...Been there and done that!

I mean think about it...We have just Lost a generation cycle of individuals who were once committed to God and the church...and to their spouses and their children/families, their work...and they have traded it in for a taste of the worldly desires and an all about me lifestyle.

And I could show you in the Bible...scripture upon scripture of how detrimental this is for us and to our culture and our society. Take a look around.

See I love technology and new stuff, and I love exploring new things, but when the foundation of our lives and our
society are deteriorating because we just refuse to be committed followers to the Goodness of the Lord then I get a little nervous.

And when we take on the attitude of “something is better than nothing” than what that leaves us with is a whole lot of “something”…with no foundational commitment to “anything”…and it makes us incomplete.

See when I look at the scriptures I see “The Disciples”… a community of devoted and committed followers to Christ willing to die for what they believe. And when you read about the church in Acts...they where a church, willing to sacrifice everything, not only for God but for their brothers and sisters as well! They were willing to set aside their wants and desires for the good of the “church”. They were all in. They didn’t just give something they gave everything.

And then as I looked other scriptures like the 


21 As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”
She was all in! She didn’t just give something she gave everything!

Look at the scripture of the


18 A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

See he is asking the right question isn’t he?

19 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone.

20 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’ *[a]*

21 “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

At this point he is thinking, Awesome! I am all in! I have followed all the rules and I go to church and so I should be good!

And then Jesus said

22 When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

Jesus knew that something was holding him back from being fully committed!

And I can Just imagine the ruler thinking “Well I gave everything else, I gave something! Maybe even more than others and Jesus said but this one thing that you hold on to is more sacred then me?

And honestly this looks like us sometimes?
23 When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy.
24 Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! 25 Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

And let me say that I have heard controversy over this statement made by about what Jesus meant by the Camel and the eye of the needle!

But let’s just make one thing clear!

Whether you believe that it is a gate at the city walls of Jerusalem or a passage way thru the mountains or just a literal eye of a needle “Because the literal Hebrew word for camel meant “ROPE”…and it would be hard to put a rope thru the eye of a needle.

Because what Jesus is saying is that it is impossible for a man or woman to go heaven without being fully committed to Christ.

Money may be the rich rulers problem but what is ours?

Remember Jesus statement, “Those who are first in this world will be last and those who are last will be first in the Kingdom of heaven.

So, all the while as we strive to have more to get more to do more to be more, Jesus is saying just be committed to me and I will show you what more looks like!
Listen to what it continues to say in Luke 18!

26 Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

27 Jesus replied, “What is impossible with man is possible with God.”

28 Peter said to him, “We have left all we had to follow you!”

Listen to the promise

29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus said to them, “no one who has left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life.”

In the book of Mark …the same story is told and it says that you will receive 100 times as much.

Church we stand challenged by the “something is better than nothing” attitude because it gives us cause to bail out whenever we want. It allows us to sacrifice our commitments to “anything” for the sake of self indulgence.

Am I making any sense here, maybe I am a little confusing here!

See a Commitment is saying I am all in, just like the disciples were to Jesus! It is a promise, it’s an agreement, it’s an obligation!

For Better or Worse for Richer or Poorer?

And Jesus says; You are either with me or against me!
He draws a line in the sand and says I want all of you! I don’t want part of you or some of you, I want you all!

And problem with our society is that we don’t want to be all in! We don’t want that kind of Commitment because it will interfere with our lives! We want a throw away mentality that says when I get tired of this I can move on to something else that will serve me better!

See one of the biggest problems we have is US! We are getting in the road of ourselves!

Let’s Watch this Video?

Do you remember “Lord empty me of me and fill me with the Holy Spirit!

Church do you understand that Our Marriages and our family structures are dying and decaying because we are a culture of self gratifying uncommitted individuals unwilling to do what it takes to maintain a commitment! And our answer to commitment is Well “Something is Better than nothing!
And Jesus says I don’t want luke warm uncommitted fans! I want on Fire Hot followers! I want devoted all in followers, willing to set aside their agendas for a more satisfying life with ME/Jesus as the leader.

See for some this is our mentality is! As long as I give “Something” then I should be covered!

Ok Help me out here, when I finish my statement you answer with “Something is better than nothing”!

“SLIDE” SOMETHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING!

I will go to church for Christmas and Easter because “Something is better than nothing”!

I will go to church on every Sunday but as for Sunday school and all that other church stuff No thank you! Because! Something is better than Nothing!

I will put $10 dollars a week in for my tithe offering because 10%, well that is just ridiculous; because Something is better than nothing!

I don’t need to read my bible or have a devotion and prayer time with God, I do that on Sunday morning because;
Something is better than Nothing!

I will help with the nursery or children’s church for one day a year because;
Something is better than Nothing!

See church we need to stop “Attending” and start “Being” the Church!

How many of us feel like this has been the mentality of the church for too many years?
And unfortunately this Something is better than Nothing! mentality has crept into our churches!
And we are the carriers of this disease!

But Here is the Good news!
Jesus is the disease killer! He is the Vaccination!

See a commitment to Him is the cure for the “
“Something is better than nothing” attitude and disease!

He calls on us to committed followers!

I am not willing to ask you to do something that I am not willing to do myself!
That is just who I am Church! I just won’t do it!
And God has assigned me the task to bring His word to you! To Bring the light to you thru me!

Now what if I decided that...well I will just give a 10 minute message so you can all get out of here sooner cause “Something is better than Nothing” Right.

Or what if I decided that we would just have Sunday morning service; No Sunday school, no Youth Group or children’s ministry or Wednesday night study, no groups nothing else just Sunday worship and nothing the rest of the week; I Just don’t want to do all that stuff! after all we were in church on Sunday and “Something is better than nothing! Right!

Let’s just say I take on that same attitude! Do you know what would happen?

The leadership would throw me out so quick I wouldn’t have time to pack my bags.
And maybe your mentality or thought is that, well I support the church and that allows the Pastor to be all in so I don’t have to be all in?
News Flash! It doesn’t work that way church!

My walk with the Lord doesn’t have any effect on your walk with the Lord!
We are Equal; your prayers are as powerful as Mine! We are all in one accord! Or at least we are suppose to be.

See when we look at the scriptures church... God used ordinary people “People like you and me” who devoted themselves to Him and remarkable things happened. Not only for themselves but for the Kingdom of God also!

And here is something else to consider in all this!

What if God decided that not giving all was worth our lives? What if God in the middle of creation stop creating and said... well there is something they can just live on dirt, no trees, flowers, grass. After all they got dirt! *Something is better than nothing!*

Have you really given any thought to what it would be like if God said; Well *Something is better than nothing”*

What if God fell short of His commitments?

What if God Said; Well I gave them “something” and that was better than “nothing”!

What would have happen to Christianity if Christ said to Pilot!
Well you know what, I have given them enough, I don’t want to be whipped and tormented...I don’t want to be nail to a Cross and die, especially for them! Anyhow something is better than nothing! Right!

Or what if He decided not to rise from the dead!

But that is not what happen is it? HE GAVE IT ALL! FOR YOU!

See Jesus use a couple of Parables that would do us well to read them, one is about the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13 and the other is about 3 servants and the bags of Gold in Matthew 25.

Matthew 13 The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.  
2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.  
3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed.  
4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.  
5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.  
6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.  
7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.  
8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.  
9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”
11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. (Those who are committed and faithful)
12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.
13 This is why I speak to them in parables:
   “Though seeing, they do not see;
   though hearing, they do not hear or understand.
14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
   “You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
   you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.
15 For this people’s heart has become calloused;
   they hardly hear with their ears,
   and they have closed their eyes.
   Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
   hear with their ears,
   understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”
16 But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 17 For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.
18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:
19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.
20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.
22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.
But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Matthew 25 The Parable of the Bags of Gold

14 “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

19 “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

21 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

22 “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

23 “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

24 “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’
26 "His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 27 Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. 28 ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. 29 For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

See the wicked and lazy servant is one who does nothing with what God has offered them.