

# Sermon Notes

"Pride and Prejudice...and Predestination"

Acts 21:37 – 22:22

11/21/21

1. This morning I would like to begin with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. My encounter with a customer of Grand Rapids \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. The day I realized that not all \_\_\_\_\_ the same things.
2. In recent years there has been much discussion about the dangers of \_\_\_\_\_ – especially for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. "A strong feeling of identity with and \_\_\_\_\_ to one's \_\_\_\_\_ or group."
  - b. Because of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that it so frequently engenders.
    - i. "If you ain't \_\_\_\_\_, you ain't \_\_\_\_\_."
  - c. And, to that degree, the warning is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. But, in \_\_\_\_\_ to that word of warning we should note a few important things:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ is as natural to human beings as \_\_\_\_\_. (It is nothing \_\_\_\_\_.)
    - i. You will always have a strong feeling of identity and loyalty to those who are \_\_\_\_\_.
      1. Even the people who \_\_\_\_\_ against tribalism \_\_\_\_\_ it.
  - b. It is also the source of \_\_\_\_\_ things, like the dynamic of \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. Each of our \_\_\_\_\_ is, in some real sense, a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c. It was never God's intention to \_\_\_\_\_ tribalism in this world, but rather to start a \_\_\_\_\_. (Mt. 10:24-42)
    - i. There is, then, a \_\_\_\_\_ inherent in warning Christians against tribalism: the implication that the goal of the Christian faith is its \_\_\_\_\_.
      1. For the opposite of tribalism is a kind of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Now, it is certainly true that tribalism can often create both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. We \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ in our passage.
    - i. The Jews of Jesus' day were very \_\_\_\_\_ of being Jews.
      1. And Paul seems to be attempting to use that to his \_\_\_\_\_.
      2. That it might be a reason for them to more easily \_\_\_\_\_ his testimony.
        - a. "I am \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." (21:39 – 22:3)
    - ii. Similarly, their pride in being Jews had created a \_\_\_\_\_ against other groups.
      1. Particularly those whom they believed to be \_\_\_\_\_ them.
        - a. Paul seems to be seeking to \_\_\_\_\_ this to his advantage as well.
          - i. "I \_\_\_\_\_ as you do." (22:4-5)
    - iii. Yet, no amount of commonality between Paul and these Jews was enough to make up for what now \_\_\_\_\_ them: A \_\_\_\_\_ encounter with Christ.
      1. A reality that \_\_\_\_\_ recognized long before \_\_\_\_\_. (22:17-21)
        - a. "You are not in that \_\_\_\_\_ anymore."
5. When you become a Christian you are \_\_\_\_\_ from your previous tribe into the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. No matter how much you still have in \_\_\_\_\_, you will no longer be \_\_\_\_\_ as one of them, because you aren't. (John 15:18-19)
    - i. Some of you are about to experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of that once again as you prepare for holiday gatherings with either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ that we have to acknowledge and \_\_\_\_\_.
    - i. Otherwise, it is too easy for us to slip into \_\_\_\_\_.

- ii. And, in so doing \_\_\_\_\_ our testimony, \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with the rest of our tribe.
  - c. Of course, this is not just \_\_\_\_\_ for us; there is an even greater \_\_\_\_\_. (Mk. 10:28-30)
    - i. As \_\_\_\_\_ has been \_\_\_\_\_ continually on his journey back to Jerusalem.
6. But, there is one other very important thing that we need to recognize and embrace: that we were \_\_\_\_\_ to this. (22:10, 14-15) (Eph. 1:11-14)
- a. It is only in the knowledge of having been \_\_\_\_\_ to the tribe of Christ that we can avoid the \_\_\_\_\_ and prejudice that so often \_\_\_\_\_ other tribes.
    - i. This (contrary to popular belief) \_\_\_\_\_ pride because the \_\_\_\_\_ he has chosen to draw the chosen to himself is the \_\_\_\_\_. (22:16) (I Timothy 1:15)
    - ii. It also eliminates \_\_\_\_\_, for we cannot look on those of other tribes with \_\_\_\_\_ (as though we were \_\_\_\_\_ than they), but rather with \_\_\_\_\_.
      - 1. "There, but for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, go I." (I Timothy 1:16)
    - iii. So, even while they are crying out for his life to be \_\_\_\_\_, he continues to testify to them in order that their lives might be \_\_\_\_\_.

### Central Takeaways

1. Tribalism is as \_\_\_\_\_ to mankind as breathing.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ identifies with a tribe.
2. Though there are very real \_\_\_\_\_ to tribalism (pride and prejudice), there are also genuine \_\_\_\_\_ (identity and belonging).
  - a. Though \_\_\_\_\_ against it for Christians are to a certain degree helpful, they can also imply something \_\_\_\_\_: that the goal of the Christian faith is its \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God's intention was never to \_\_\_\_\_ tribalism in this world, but rather to \_\_\_\_\_ a new tribe.
4. When you become a Christian, you are \_\_\_\_\_ from your previous tribe into the tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
5. This is \_\_\_\_\_ to recognize and embrace...
  - a. In order that we not slide into \_\_\_\_\_, voiding our testimony, \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord, and \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship with the rest of the tribe.
  - b. And in order that we be able to fully experience the blessings of \_\_\_\_\_ of being in Christ.
6. It is also critical for us to recognize that we were \_\_\_\_\_ to this tribe.
  - a. That our \_\_\_\_\_ might be eliminated by our experience of the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b. That our \_\_\_\_\_ might be eliminated by our understanding that, "There, but for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, go I."

### Application

1. Life for the Christian in our day is very much like driving \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. There is great \_\_\_\_\_ on both sides of the road.
2. We cannot give in to the suggestion that all tribalism is an \_\_\_\_\_ to be avoided.
  - a. Or, we will \_\_\_\_\_ our testimony, \_\_\_\_\_ our Lord, and break fellowship with the rest of our brothers and sisters.
3. But, we also cannot give in to either \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Or, we will actually be \_\_\_\_\_ with some other tribe than the true tribe of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. We must stand on the truth and testify to the truth (allowing that identity to both \_\_\_\_\_ us and \_\_\_\_\_ us) with the humility and compassion through which God might use us to draw more of those he has \_\_\_\_\_ into the tribe of Christ.
5. What \_\_\_\_\_ do you identify with, and how is that \_\_\_\_\_ in your life?