

## Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing

- KMTMT. Heard before? KMTMT. That quote comes from businessman named Stephen Covey. Most famous for writing book (maybe heard): *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. National bestseller; very popular in business world for business mgmt, time mgmt. SC: KMTMT. In corporate world meant: if you want be effective in your business/life, don't get sidetracked by all kinds of day/day distractions that may be imp but can pull away from what's most imp. Stay focused on what's most imp; make that top priority, MT; bec when you KMTMT, you'll be effective and successful.
- Now I'm def not here preach re corp business practice, time mgmt techniques. But I do think this quote from SC can easily be carried from corp world into Xian practice. KMTMT: IOW, for us as Xians, we need stay focused on what's most imp. And what's the most imp part Xian life? Our rel to Jesus, faith in him as Savior, connection to him through gospel. That is MT! And if we want to KMTMT, then have keep Jesus and his word as our top priority, constantly focusing on Savior, not being sidetracked by all kinds day/day distractions, worldly influences, Satan's tempts – all things that pull us away from Jesus. Have to stay focused on Jesus; he's the most imp. KMTMT!
- That comes out very clearly in Gospel for today. Lot people were not keeping Jesus as MT. **Vs. 60**. What's "it/hard teaching"? This reading toward end Jn 6. For last month here at SJ, PDW preaching on Jn 6; it's called "bread/life discourse." After feeding 1000s on hillside with bread, began teach:
  - Bread/life. Manna your forefathers ate spoiled; my words don't spoil. You need eat my words. Need eat me, bec I'm bread/life. When eat me, never go hungry; I satisfy hungry soul. When eat my flesh, drink blood (means: believe in me), you have eternal life – bec I'm bread/life.
- What taught people. But **vs. 60**. Didn't understand, or believe, or want to live by these words of Jesus. Jesus also: **vs. 63b**. The HS uses words of Jesus to strengthen faith, give eternal life. But these people misplacing priorities; being distracted, pulled away from Jesus. MT for them no longer MT.
- And I wonder: is that happening among us, right here at SJ? Are we letting MT slip, cease to be MT? Is word of God (bread/life) slowly but gradually becoming less imp to us? Are we being sidetracked by all kinds day/day distractions (whatever may be) that are pulling us away from Jesus? I'm asking bec I'm concerned re it! Jesus must always be our top priority; the bread/life must always be MT. But like these people here, do we say, **vs. 60b**. I fear those words are sometimes our words, if not spoken by mouths, then at least lived out in our lives. We all have to recognize: all being pulled. Devil pulls us all in diff directions, but always away from Jesus. And sometimes we let it happen; sometimes even like it. And for this we must humbly, heartily repent. And not only that, also vigilantly beware! **Vs. 66**. Pulled away. And that's what happens (can happen to any us) when we let MT cease be MT.
- And so I say to you again: KMTMT. Keep Jesus as your top priority, most imp part of life. When Jesus saw these people leaving him, said: **vs. 67**. Then we have Peter (same to whom Jesus once said, **"Get behind me, Satan! ...You do not have in mind the concerns of God but merely human concerns"** (Mt 16:23); same Peter who would later deny on oath even knew Jesus) – this Peter, here, has shining moment. **Vs. 67-69**. That is keeping MTMT. "Where else would we go; to whom turn? What else could be more imp than you, Jesus?" That is the single-minded, focused, priority-driven mindset that Jesus seeks from him people. Jesus wants us to make his word the single most imp aspect of life.

- And here's why (Peter nailed it!): **“You have the words of eternal life.”** Jesus' words forgive our sins and they give life. Jesus' words forgive us: even for misplacing our priorities. So if you feel the guilt of letting yourself be pulled away from Savior, hear words of Jesus that fully/freely forgive you! Jesus shed his blood on cross to forgive you. And rose from dead to give you life; his words give life – life in soul through faith; someday eternal life with Jesus in heaven. Peter nailed it: **vs. 68.**
- And so now, forgiven & driven by gospel, we will KMTMT. Want tell you re one way to do that. I've always wanted Sun AM Bible study to be bigger deal around here. Coming to church, of course, essential. But so is Bible study hour between services. So I'm really excited to announce that on Sept 9 (2 wks fr today), when Sun services go back to 8 & 10:30, we're going start up Sun AM Bible classes again. And in a big way! We're expanding what we've done in past. Childcare; SS for PK all way through 8<sup>th</sup> gr; FYSH (HS) Bible study; membership classes going on; traditional Adult Bible Class taught by pastors in mtg room. And in addition to all that, now starting an Adult SS, between services, taught right here in sanctuary, by lay leaders in cong, covering same lessons children hearing in SS. So we're really making big deal out of hour between services; and I want you be part of it: whether seasoned member or new to the church. If you're church goer but haven't gone much to Bible class, here's your chance! If you're a family with young children, now parents can study same lesson children have in SS. Making big deal out of Sun AM Bible study – and why? Bec: **vs. 68.** What's great is: this whole Sun AM Bible study program is only one way to prioritize Jesus. Maybe Bible class on Sundays just doesn't work for you; (thinking Mon PM worshipers). The good thing is: in your own life, you have ample opps to keep Jesus in top spot. This is one good way; but there are many others.
- And finally, heart of matter is this: what's most imp to you in life? Stephen Covey would say that you'll be more effective, successful person if you prioritize your life around what's most imp to you. But we don't need a business mgmt guru from corp world to give us advice on keeping our priorities straight. We have our dear Lord/Savior, says: **vs. 63b.** We have words of Jesus, which forgive, give life. **Vs. 68.** Dear people of SJ: always prioritize your life around Jesus; always keep Jesus as most imp aspect of your life. Nothing is more imp than Jesus; remember that, and live that. Or, said another way: the MT is to KMTMT.

### **John 6:60-69**

<sup>60</sup> On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! <sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. <sup>65</sup> He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them.”

<sup>66</sup> From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. <sup>67</sup> “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God.”