

Prophet of the Profane

Easter 2011
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

INTRODUCTION

WHY DO WE GATHER? Because in lifting up Christ together it is good on regular basis to be reminded about how, in Christ, we enter in and God steps over the threshold, into the common place of the human heart.

DISCUSSION

In your life what things are sacred and what things are common?

EXPLANATION

How do you differentiate between sacred and common?

What are you totally out of sorts with when people treat it in a common way (ie: a Bible, a flag, etc)?

What does it mean that Christ is the Prophet of the Profane?

How does it make you feel that God Himself had to die, because of our sin, to bring Himself into the common of our lives?

APPLICATION

If you had to define to someone who was truly asking about attending a church on a Sunday morning, why would you tell them we gather?

How has God stepped over the threshold to meet you?

Do you see much of your life as lived in the common?

What is the best way to honor the gift God has given you in reaching across the threshold?

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Proverbs 1:5

Exodus 25:8-9

Exodus 28:1-2, 29

Exodus 29:5-6, 31, 33

Exodus 30:25

Leviticus 10:9-10

Matthew 12:1-6

John 2:18-22

Matthew 27:50-51

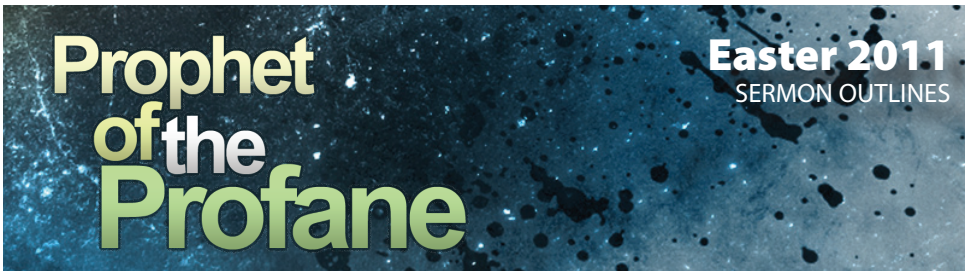
1 Corinthians 3:16

John 2:20-22

Genesis 28:12-13, 16

Easter 2011
& SCRIPTURE VERSES





Proverbs 1:5 “let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance”

Why do we gather in a building on any given Sunday to reflect upon, and worship, a God who came as a man to redeem humanity (and all creation)? Why so often do people feel like they sit in a fog of rhetoric unable to understand why Easter (as a celebration) is so important to Christians? How does any “church service” make the ALL powerful God of ALL creation MORE understandable? How can we, as a people, better understand what is supposed to happen when we gather?

These have been the questions people have asked for ages; and this is what we seek to explain on Easter Sunday 2011.

Through thousands of years there has been a view of the world that is two tiered: the sacred and the secular. We have a sense that things that are sacred are more worthwhile of our hearts attention, require a different attitude in how we treat them, and even a different manner in how we think about them. These ideas have been around as long as man.

In Exodus 25, 28, 29, and 30 we read of things that were common and things that were holy.

- Special space (temple)
- Special clothes
- Special hats
- Special food
- Special cologne

Then there was the common space that belonged to most people

- Common dwellings (our homes)
- Common clothes
- Common hats
- Common food
- Common oils

The Hebrew word for Sacred is **Qodesh** – Holy, consecrated, set apart, *different*. One realm is for everyone (common) but there is a select few who get to wear sacred garments, hats, emblems, eat sacred food and get to use sacred utensils; they even get to offer sacred gifts in the sacred place.



The word profane in Greek it is **babalos**, it literally means in its roots “to cross the threshold.” To profane something is to take something sacred and cross the threshold with it so as to make/treat it as common.

When Jesus comes, He associates Himself with the temple, the most sacred thing imaginable and says “*one greater than the temple is here.*” In John 2 Jesus links the temple with something that will be destroyed and rebuilt in 3 days (His body). He links the whole old system, in an interesting way, with His own death and resurrection.

In Matthew 27, when Jesus died, it says V50-51 *And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.* The temple guards people from entering the holiest of the holy places (for our own safety). That curtain/veil was torn in two, top to bottom. Later writers of scripture will show that this says that people can now enter IN the MOST SACRED SPACE. But it also tells us that God has now GONE OUT.

Through Jesus there is new access to God. *1 Cor 3:16 Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?* The sacred has passed the threshold and now lives in the everyday...**God's Spirit lives in you.**

The point of a sermon, message, gathering is to glorify Christ...it is all about Jesus. And in glorifying Jesus we become more aware of Christ as He is in the common.

- Temple is the place where sin is atoned for – that's now in Jesus
- Temple is the place where people come and worship God – that is now in Jesus.
- Temple is the place where the priest intercedes before God – that is now in Jesus (our great High priest).

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