

THE POWER OF JESUS' WORDS
Follow Christ
Banska Stiavnica, 29th January 2023

John 17:1-26 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. ⁶ "I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸ For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³ But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴ I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. ²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them."

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0. INTRODUCTION

0.1. INFLATION OF WORDS

- Inflation in the twenties in Germany → paying the war reparations.

Dollar has lost its purchasing power. In fact it has lost 98.17% of its purchasing power in 100 years. One Dollar today should buy something like a single person's weekly food shop, not a single daily newspaper.¹

- **“Less is always more. The best language is silence. We live in a time of a terrible inflation of words, and it is worse than the inflation of money.”** Eduardo Galeano²
- **LYING words** → promises,
- **EMPTY words** → Mt 12:36-37 I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word (πᾶν ῥῆμα ἀργὸν) they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
- **FLATTERY** → Ps 5:9 For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.
- **BASELESS ENCOURAGEMENT** → Jeremiah 6:14 They have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace
- **JESTING, JOKING** in serious situations → Lot talking about the coming disaster on Sodom...

0.2. RESPECTING GOD'S WORD

- **Amos 8:11-12** "Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord GOD, "when I will send a famine on the land- not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD.¹² They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the LORD, but they shall not find it
- **Ps 12:6-7[7-8]** The words of the LORD are pure words, like silver refined in a furnace on the ground, purified seven times. ⁷ You, O LORD, will keep them; you will guard us from this generation forever.
- **Rom 10:6-9** But the righteousness based on faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'"(that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ or "'Who will descend into the abyss?'"(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved → Dt 30:11 "For this commandment that I command you today is not too hard for you, neither is it far off. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend to heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ But the word is very near you. It is in your mouth and in your heart, so that you can do it.

0.3. WORDS, FAITH AND DEEDS

- **Heb 4:2** For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened
- **1 John 3:18** Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth
- **James 2:26** For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, so also faith apart from works is dead.

¹ https://www.bullionvault.com/gold-news/churchill_gold_120120104 (29/01/2023)

² <https://www.eisfs.co.uk/news/inflation-how-does-it-alter-what-you-are-worth/> (28/01/2023)

0.4. THE WORDS OF JESUS

- **John 12:47-48** If anyone hears my words (ῥῆμα) and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word (λόγος) that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.
- **Mt 7:24** "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock
- **John 17:**

1. HIS WORDS PROTECT

- ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹ And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name...
- **John 16:33** I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation (θλίψιν ἔχετε). But take heart; I have overcome the world.
- → an example:

1.1. PREPARE FOR SUFFERING

- **2 Tim 3:12** Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted
- **Acts 14:21-22** When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, ²² strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
- **Luke 12:4-5** I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him!

1.2. RECEIVE THE VICTORY OF JESUS

- **1 John 5:4** For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world- our faith
- **Rev 12:10-11** the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. ¹¹ And they have conquered him by the (1) **blood** of the Lamb and by the (2) word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

2. HIS WORDS UNITE

- ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- John 14:6 "I am the (1) way, and the (2) truth (ἡ ἀλήθεια), and the (3) life.
- truth → not only what is *REAL* but also what is *IMPORTANT*...

2.1. IDENTIFY WITH JESUS

- **John 6:63** It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life
- "eating" the flesh of Jesus...
- holiness is complete abandonment to Jesus...

2.2. UNITY IS A SPIRITUAL GIFT

- Eph 4:3 ...maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace... (τηρεῖν τὴν ἐνότητα τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν τῷ συνδέσμῳ τῆς εἰρήνης)
- → the fight of faith

3. HIS WORDS REACH OUT

- ²⁰ "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word

3.1. REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD

- → the Holy Spirit
- **John 16:8-11** And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning (1) sin and (2) righteousness and (3) judgment: ⁹ concerning **sin**, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning **righteousness**, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning **judgment**, because the ruler of this world is judged

3.2. PARADOX OF RELATIONSHIP

- *separated* from the world 1John 2 → not loving the world (worldliness)
- *reaching out* to the world John 3:16 → sent into the world

4. TO REMEMBER

- We have to be careful about our relationship to the Word of God in the midst of the contemporary word-inflation.
- We have no other access to God than through our faith in his word that is energized by the Holy Spirit.
- Let us remember and meditate on God's word concerning all our joys and problems. Through his WORD you can get the heavenly perspective on what is going on in this world.