

Good morning! Christians are often accused---correctly---of having their own “insider” language. This is a kind of use of King James Version phrases inserted into conversations which are held in otherwise normal language. I remember a conversation years ago with a young lady in a former church who said she had been “vain-imagining” that someone had been talking about her behind her back. Does that make sense to you? I don’t know what it is about us Christians but we have a tendency to over-spiritualize and that can make us come up with wildly inappropriate remarks. Remember the incident when Jesus took Peter, James and John with Him up the mountain where He glowed and met with Moses and Elijah? Peter instantly came up with a great plan to build little tabernacles there. For some reason, when God shows us something new, we want to take it on the road! This morning, let’s look together at several passages that can help us with overcoming this tendency:

As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” But he said, “Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”

Luke 11:27-28

As He was going out of the temple, one of His disciples said to Him, “Teacher, behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings!” And Jesus said to him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another which will not be torn down.” **Mark 13:1-2**

Being circumcised or not being circumcised doesn’t matter in Christ Jesus, but faith working through love does matter. **Gal. 5:6 CEB**

I love these first two passages because they remind us that we humans seem to have a high regard for religious stuff...a regard that Jesus, by the way, doesn’t seem to share. In the first passage, Jesus is busy teaching profound principles of the Kingdom of God and, lacking anything else to say, one person pipes up, “Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!” What? What does that have to do with what Jesus was saying? Jesus wasn’t impressed; He reminded the crowd that obedience matters more than religious enthusiasm. In the second passage, Jesus is walking along with the disciples and one of His disciples says, “Hey Jesus---take a look at these wonderful religious buildings!” Again, Jesus isn’t impressed, and tells the crowd that it is all going away in a few years. You and I may be impressed by the trappings of religious ceremony and lofty religious language, but Jesus isn’t. In the third of

today's passages we discover that what really counts with Jesus is faith that works by acts of love. We have just passed through the forty days of Lent and celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus in Easter. These come with lots of religious ceremony and symbolism. Now that all of that is over, what will you do to serve Jesus ...with your faith and love?