

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”

March 3, 2016

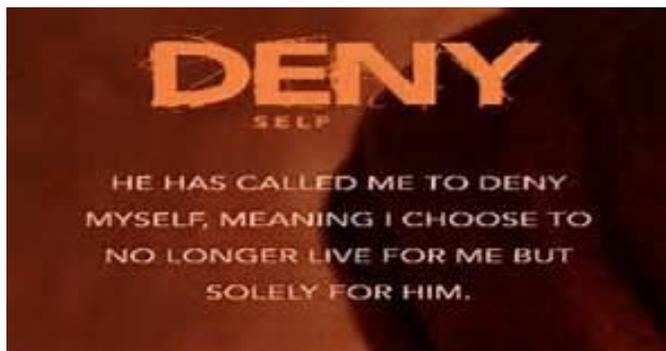
- ✓ Numbers 3:40-4:49—The substitution of the firstborn (3:40-51); moving the Tabernacle (4).
- ✓ John 12:12-50 – It really is all about Jesus Christ.
- ✓ Psalm 5:1-12— 2nd person life with God in prayer.

COMMENTARY:

Numbers 3:40-4:49. In the beginning of this section we have the Levites’ substitution of the firstborn. In compensation for God having spared the first males of Israel in the 10th plague and at the time of the Exodus, He declared that all of the firstborn of men should belong to Him. This would not involve their death, but their lifetime service. We Christians are to give our lives to the Lord as *living sacrifices in view of God’s mercies* (Rom 12:1). It is called “living” in the aforementioned passage because it reflects the choice of our will—such a sacrifice is always “pleasing to God” (Rom 12:1). Just as we noted last evening at the Masseys’ house, each of us is on the journey of our life, and while God writes the story, we get to decide what character we play and become. As we walk through the “problem” of evil in our current studies at FBC, it is my prayer that each of us will understand very clearly what God wants to understand about Him and the nature of evil that is within us as well as all around us so we can love Him more intelligently and with more devotion. All of the teaching at FBC is designed to give believers the Truth so they will have the option of loving God—which is the root, hinge, life, and fruit of all virtue and happiness.



John 12:12-50. In this section, Jesus makes it clear that utter and complete devotion to God and His kingdom should be the focus of our lives: “Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor” (Jn 12:25-26). Being a servant of Jesus requires being a serious follower of Him. He is to be so committed to Christ as to root out all self-centeredness. Those who follow Him in humility will later receive honor and glory as a reward (Rom 8:17, 36-37; 2 Tim. 2:11-13). The only reason someone would not be motivated for rewards in the next life is because they are too “vested” in this life. However, Christ informs us that such a person will never *find his life* for no one finds his true life without first losing that life to self. It really is all about Jesus Christ.



Psalm 5:1-12. In last evening's Bible class, I noted that 2nd *personal* love for God is primarily developed in prayer. It is in prayer that we enter into that 2nd person relationship. For example, when I think about myself, I am in 1st person, whether I also am thinking about biblical truth or not. When I think of God doing this or that I am in third person, for example, "He will provide." Neither first person nor third person are *personal*. The *personal* relationship with God develops in 2nd person relationship with Him. With that in mind, consider David's 2nd person life with God in Psalm 5:1-12. No wonder the Bible talks about us building up our faith by prayer (Jude 1:12)—prayer really is the lifeline of fellowship with God. I do not have in mind long prayers. What I do have in mind is short communications to God throughout each day about God, His blessings, and the various details of life that are all in His hands. Given the power of 2nd person relationship, no wonder we are told to *pray without ceasing and give thanks in everything for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus* (1 Thess. 5:17-18).



In, by, with, through, and for *Esse*,

Pastor Don