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He Takes Away the First To Establish the Second

I don't know if you've noticed this yet, but it seems to me that the Lord opens your eyes to an extent to a particular view of Christ, and its wonderful and exciting, and then He moves you on to show you something else that you couldn't have seen except He first showed you the other thing. And I suppose it goes on like that for a while. But then, inevitably, he will take you back to something He's already began to show you and now show you far more than you ever knew was there.

I'm not talking about learning more information. I'm only talking about the seeing of Him in whom all treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found. And I'm talking about those treasures being revealed as in Him...where you are.

But it seems that the Lord has been doing that with me with respect to the Cross – its like the sun coming up on the new creation. You know its real, but you can't see it until the sun rises. He's just bringing me right back there and saying "lets take a look at this". And it is to me as though I have never seen anything before.

So the Lord has brought me back around to the cross. And some of you are saying "Jason, you never left the cross". And that's true. But now I'm seeing the cross again as it relates to judgment.

Now when I say judgment, I'm not talking about punishment. I'm talking about the judgment of the cross as it is **a division**. The word judgment actually means "dividing asunder". And we know that. If you are making a judgment, you are dividing between good and bad, right and wrong, harmless or dangerous, etc. There's a cutting, a dividing, a separating

That is what judgment is. We usually think of that word as synonymous with punishment. But there we go again with our carnal minds. Judgment is not just punishment, it is a really a division. You go to court for a judgment, a decision, a dividing. You go to jail for a punishment. They're different.

And so I'm dealing with the cross as a judgment. There was certainly a punishment that resulted from that judgment. The one came out of the other. But the cross was far more than a punishment. It was a dividing. It was a separating. It was an enormous cutting. And we've looked at this, but lets look again. What did the cross divide? Well, in a word, **it divided the first from the second.**

What does that mean? What is the first? What is the second. That's what I want us to come to see today. That's today's goal. I want us to come to understand Hebrews 10:9 "He takes away the first in order to establish the second".

I'm not interested in just learning this scriptural principle. I'm interested in us experiencing the working of this reality in our hearts. I'm standing here proclaiming the principle, but I'm hoping the Spirit of God brings us to the experience of the working of this in our hearts.

"he takes away the first in order to establish the second". Because when this judgment, this division is made real in our hearts, then we live in every way according to this judgment, according to this division. When the Living Word is revealed in us, oh there is a dividing. One might even say that the Word of God is sharper than a two edged sword, able to divide asunder.

What was the judgment? What was the division? Well, in a word, the judgment of the cross was simply the taking away of the first in order to establish the second. That's a great description of it.

What was the first? The first wasn't just the old covenant, though the old covenant was part of the first. The first wasn't just the old man – Adam. Though that kind was of the first. The first wasn't just the natural world, though all of these things were of the first.

The first is everything that pointed to, but fell short of the second. The first is the whole first creation, that which is earthy. That which is natural, known by the senses. That which is flesh. The first is that which is of man, for man...Adam. A man that was bound by the law of sin and death. And a whole order by which God dealt with this first man. And this first order was according to a first covenant initiated by God consisting of law, and sacrifices, and earthly tabernacles, and man's service and work.

All of this was first, and all of this pointed to, but fell short of the second. And all of this was created and set in order for one main purpose – and that purpose was to be a **testimony** of the second. Why the heavens and the earth? To foreshadow the new heavens and the new earth in Christ. Why the first man and his creation? To foreshadow the one new man and the new creation. Why the Law, the feasts, the sacrifices, the priesthood, the prophecies? To point to their fulfillment in the second. Why the priests, the judges, the kings, the prophets? To point to their fulfillment in the second. Why the stories of Joshua, David, Solomon, Esther, and Ezra? To give a testimony of the reality of the second.

All that came first, came as a testimony of what was to come in Christ. All of the first was a testimony declaring the eternal substance, the eternal reality, the spiritual experience of the second which was coming in Christ.

All of the first was like a big pile of blueprints detailing a house. Genesis through Malachi. Blueprints and photographs and land surveys and descriptions of building materials, zoning regulations, and electrical wiring maps – a big pile (Genesis through Malachi) all describing a house...all testifying of a house...all describing a house. And the house is their fulfillment. The house is the second. The Father built a house through the death, burial, and resurrection of His Son. Christ is that house. And we are in that house. We are in the second.

What is the purpose for the first? It was the true testimony of the second. The true testimony of the house. He takes away the first to establish the second. **Why did he take away the first? Because we now live in the second! Because the first was the testimony, and now we have the reality. Why do we still have the recorded testimony of the first? So that we can better understand where we now are. So that we can grow in our understanding of the second by looking at the testimony.**

Examples: read of the temple, the Israelites, the wilderness

Why might I look over that pile of house descriptions after I've already moved into the house? So that I could better understand the house I was in. I re-read the testimony contained in the first so that I can see more clearly the salvation that I have.

But I am no longer a man standing on the curb with a pile of blueprints and photographs. That was the condition of those who were of the first.

Peter tells us that for centuries the prophets prophesied of Him not knowing how or in what time these things would come.

But we are of the second. We are those who are in the house growing in the knowledge of that house. The Spirit reveals it to us through the testimony.

Col 2:16 Therefore let no one judge you in food or in drink, or in respect of a feast, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbaths. **17** For these are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is Christ. (the first was a shadow of the second, but now the second has come)

Heb 10:1 For the Law which has a shadow of good things to come, not the very image of the things

We are of the second. The second what? The second Man. The second creation. The second covenant – the new covenant. The second kind. The second is another realm, another place to live. Its different from the first. Its not earthly, its spiritual. Its not temporal, its everlasting. And we don't experience it according to natural senses, we experience it according to faith – because faith sees all that is in Christ. Where Christ is all and all.

"He takes away the first that he may establish the second". He doesn't just take away the first because he's tired of it. He takes it away so that he can establish the substance of what it was a testimony of. Now listen, I'm not talking about theological principles. You should know by now that I don't care about theological principles as such.

This has INCREDIBLE ramifications with us. If we don't see this, then we're not going to understand the Lord's dealing with us. Because we don't really want this to happen in us. We don't mind if He takes away the things that we don't like about ourselves. If he takes away the bad stuff that bothers me. But really, deep down, we want to remain as we are – only better.

When JW was here he said "people aren't afraid of dying, they're afraid of not living". We're not afraid of dying as long as we think we get our lives back. But Jesus didn't say that resurrection was getting **your** life back. He said "I am the resurrection". Resurrection is Christ living in you. His life coming forth from among the dead. And yes, that is everlasting even after you drop your earthly body...but its according to the second, according to the new covenant, not I, but Christ.

I'm not saying that you don't have everlasting life. I'm just saying that He is the life. "I am the resurrection AND the life". That just about sums it up.

We're ok with dying as long as we think we'll come back from the dead. But what man rejects is the second covenant - "not I but Christ". When we think of us not living, and Christ living in me, we reject that from the core of our being. Because, God knows, I signed up for Christianity so that when I die I don't lose my life.

Even though Jesus said "unless you lose your life, you'll never find it". What have we done to this gospel?

And that's what we're moving towards. There is something in us that will do anything to serve the church, give big tithes, support this ministry, give away my Wednesday nights...as long as he doesn't "take away the first that he may establish the second". There's got to be some way to add the second on without taking away the first.

But that is the judgment of the cross. And anyone that is seeing the cross is experiencing this judgment, this dividing. The cross takes away the first, and establishes the second. It kills and it also brings life. It puts away the old, and brings the new out from resurrection. God didn't need to instruments to do this, he does it all in just one. The cross abolishes the first which is a pattern. Why? Because that to which the pattern pointed has come. The substance has come.

And this couldn't be more important for us. Because many of us are still trying to find the substance in the pattern. Many of us are still trying to find Christianity in the first. Friends, Christianity is nothing if it isn't Christ Himself – the second – the fulfillment of all things spoken. But we have an incredibly hard time with this. **Most of us are still trying to find our rest in the law. Still trying to find joy in the flesh. Still trying to find identity in good works. Still trying to find purpose in the old creation. Still trying to find fellowship in the natural. Still trying to find life among the dead. Still trying to relate to God through the very thing He has taken away.** We are seeking the second among the first. It reminds me of those angels at Jesus' tomb – "why do you seek the living among the dead"?

Can you see that we do that? And then we don't understand God and we get upset and offended. But God never meant to establish the first except as a pattern of the second.

What did He tell Moses? "Make sure you construct this thing exactly according to the pattern that I showed you". What did He tell David "make sure you establish this tent exactly according to the pattern that I've shown you".

It's a pattern that points to the second, points to life, points to Christ. But if you want joy, rest, purpose, relationship, life, covenant...you're going to have to find them where the substance is. In the second.

But the second is not another testimony. Its not another prediction. Its not another shadow. The second is the salvation promised. The second is the life foretold. The second is the rest that the land pointed to. The second is Christ and all things in Him being made unto you.

Do you see that? The new covenant is not another testimony. The new covenant is a declaration of what has come. It doesn't point to the 5th or the 3rd. It is a proclamation of a salvation that has come. It is the announcement of what is now in Christ. The cry of the new testament epistles – "But now in Christ"

The book of Romans is not the proclamation of a coming salvation. No, that would be Isaiah. That would be Ezekiel. The book of Romans poured out of a man that was seeing His salvation in Christ. A man who was living in the second. A man who said "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ". Our salvation is ongoing.

Our salvation is every increasing in our experience. But our salvation has come when the person of Salvation became our life.

We are in Christ. And Christ has been made unto us salvation. So where's our problem? Here's our problem: We are not clearly divided. He has made a clear division! But we are not clearly divided. And the revealing of Christ crucified will divide asunder all things: light and dark, heaven and earth, old and new, life and death, Adam and Christ, first and second.

And when we truly embrace the cross, there is a tremendous dividing that begins. A dividing in everything you are, everything you do, everything you think. A death and burial of the first, and the resurrection of the second. A taking away of the first in order to establish the second.

And as we begin to grow up in Him we begin to find our hearts clearly divided according to this judgment. And you find that you don't have to stop and pray and get direction from God in every little situation because you start to live according to this judgment.

As we grow in faith, our hearts are governed by this judgment. And that's good, because we've tried to bring over into Christ much that needs to face this judgment. We always try to hold on to the first, lest He take it away. We're going to look at this more next week. But I want to just establish this reality by showing you that God has been talking about this for thousands of years.

It starts with Cain and Able. The first born, Cain, could not bring an offering acceptable to the Lord. He brought the Lord the best of the ground. Able, the second, and his offering of the life of the Lamb, was accepted in the heart of God. And then, of course...even as we see with Jesus, the first rose up and slew the second. And his blood cried out from the earth. That is what happened with Jesus. The first rose up and slew the second, and Hebrews tells us that Christ's blood "speaks better than the blood of Able".

Then it moves on with Isaac and Ishmael. We've looked at this before. Ishmael, the first, the product of man's effort, the product of man's will, the product of man's ability. He came first. But when it was time for Isaac to come forth the word is "cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be the heir with my son". He takes away the first to establish the second.

Then the Lord testifies again with Jacob and Esau. Rebekah has two sons in her womb and they are struggling against each other, and the Lord says "there are two nations, two peoples in your womb that shall be separated, and one is greater than the other, and the first shall serve the second....the older shall serve the younger".

So out comes the first - a man of the field, a man of the wilderness. And out comes the second - a man who dwelled in the tents of his Father. And the second takes the birthright of the first. And then the second takes the inheritance and blessing of the Father. And again, the older will serve the younger. His brother will bow down to him. Again, he takes away the first and establishes the second.

Then it moves on to Jacob's two wives. Jacob really falls in love with Rachel. She is the beautiful one to him. She's the one he wants from the beginning. His plan is for her. But first, he has to work seven years for the older sister Leah, the first, before he can get the younger who was the desire of his heart from the beginning.

And its interesting to me that Leah had bad eyes.

Then, Joseph has two sons – Manasseh and Ephraim. Manasseh was the first and Ephraim was the second. And before Jacob dies, Joseph brings his two boys before his father and asks him to bless them. Joseph reaches out his hands, CROSSES THEM, and puts his right hand on the younger and left hand on the older...and then proceeds to say “truly the younger shall be greater than the older”

Friends, do you think this is coincidence? Or is God trying to make a point?

We could keep going and talk about Saul and then David. Or David’s two sons from Bathsheba. The Lord allowed the first to die, and the second (who was Solomon) was established as king. Or the prophet Haggai “the glory of the latter house shall far surpass the glory of the former house”. I’m sure the biblical examples are far more numerous than we could recount this morning.

So what’s my point. Well, like I said before, my point is not that you just understand this principle. But really that this principle will be worked in your heart by the revealing of Christ. This is hard for us. There is something in us that desperately wants to hold on to the first.

Jesus says “unless you lose YOUR life, you’ll never find it”.

There’s something in us that wants to cry out with Cain “you have driven me out, and my punishment is too great for me!”. Or to cry out with Abraham “Oh, Lord if only Ishmael could live before you!” Or with Laban “Jacob, take Leah, she is my firstborn”. Or with Joseph “No Father, this one is the firstborn and that one is the second!” Or with David in prayer and fasting “have mercy and let the firstborn live!”

You see, we’re just like them. That was in type and shadow, but with us it’s the reality. We want to live in the first, fix the first, offer the first. We want to drag the first through the cross into the second. Our carnal mind concept of the second is simply an improved first.

That’s how we think. Our concept of heavenly things is just earthly things elevated to an eternal status. What is heaven? Its where we’ll have popcorn that never runs out. Its where you can have a dog that never dies.

Listen. The first was a pattern, a testimony, a shadow, a schoolmaster. A bunch of blueprints, photos, and descriptions of a house that God was going to build. Ezekiel saw some of those blueprints. They pointed to substance. It pointed to reality. Don’t get out your measuring tape Ezekiel, I’m not talking about a building made with earthen bricks. I’m talking about living stones. I’m talking about spiritual reality. And that reality has come in Christ. And where are you? You are in Christ. You are in that substance. You are in the second.

And so now what is the Spirit trying to do in your heart? Well, he’s bringing a judgment, a division. The cross already established that division, but now the Spirit of the Lord is showing it to you. Now the Spirit of the Lord is opening your eyes. So that the judgment works into your heart. So that all things are done in view of that judgment. That division.

What is the Spirit doing in your heart? He takes away the first, in order to establish the second.