**Apostles Creed**

**Cov’t Member Night Slide**

**Series Slide**

Dr. David Livingstone moved from London, England to Botswana, Africa in the 1840s for 2 reasons. First, inspired by William Wilberforce’s successful efforts to end slavery in Great Britain, David Livingstone wanted to move to Africa to end the slavery that was still happening between African countries. Second, he was a Christian who was taking seriously the mandate to make the gospel known to all nations, and he felt a particular calling to Africa…so in his late 20s he moved from England to Africa permanently.

This was before the “scramble for Africa“ in which European nations came in and took land from natives and then sought to colonize everyone. Dr. Livingstone did not operate that way. He lived among singular tribes for long periods of time, not seeking to make them European, but to help them avoid the slave trade and to share Jesus with them.

Now, in 1840s Africa, there were lots of things British folks didn’t understand about Africa, so David Livingstone’s letters and correspondence with the London Missionary Society became quite famous as people learned more and more about Africa, and particularly the source of the Nile River.

Dr. David Livingstone became the supreme example of what it meant to be an explorer…he was somewhat of a celebrity. Until suddenly, in the 1860s, the letters stopped. No one knew what happened. But many feared the worst. That’s when another guy, the 28 year old **Henry Morton Stanley** was hired by a New York newspaper to travel to Africa and find Dr. Livingstone in 1869.

And on November 10th, 1871, Stanley found Dr. Livingstone in Tanzania on the shores of the 2nd largest lake in the world where he approached him in the village and uttered the famous and often imitated words, “**Dr. Livingstone I presume?”**

Who’s ever heard that phrase before?

Less than 2 years later, David Livingstone died, and his heart was buried in Africa while his body was shipped back to England.

But Henry Morton Stanley was just getting started. By virtue of having found Dr. Livingstone, he had just gotten his first taste of celebrity…and he was hooked. He would return to England a National Hero…and milked it for all it was worth.

First, was a bestselling book, “**How I Found Livingstone”** wherein Henry Stanley embellished details of his quest with emotional theatrics.

He claimed that during his time with Livingstone, that he had become a Xian he wanted to open Africa up the “shining light of Christianity!” He said he had taken up Dr. Livingstone’s cause of ridding Africa of slavery.

But Stanley’s life turned out mainly to be about relaying daring tales of adventure to the people back home. Because Stanley’s initial mission to find Dr. Livingstone was so profitable for the NY newspaper that sent him, the same paper sent him back on a new mission…to explore the Congo. During that trip, from the safety of a boat in the water, Livingstone and his crew fired on a group of natives that were yelling at them from the land…and killed dozens of people.

A man who supposedly was there to share the love of Jesus and bring justice to Africans, ended up killing them. Not just that one time. It turns out, Stanley and his crew would go on to decimate several towns and villages.

It was reported by a fellow explorer, that Stanley would shoot Africans with little thought. Eventually, Stanley, who had said he’d come to free Africans from intra-continental slavery and deliver the gospel of King Jesus, began to work with King Leopold of Belgium, who eventually would use Stanley’s explorations to make his own colony: The Belgian Congo.

Back in Europe, bicycles were becoming popular at the time. So, there was a demand for rubber. The jungles of the Congo were filled with rubber. King Leopold ordered the enslavement of the Congolese people in order to harvest the rubber. If they did not comply…or if they didn’t meet their quotas for work, they would be killed. Often, their hands and feet were cut off to offer proof of their death to the King and his men.

King Leopold and Henry Morton Stanley became incredibly wealthy from this mass genocide that killed up to 10 million Congolese people.

In an uprising in the Congo in the 1970s, a statue of Henry Morton Stanley was overturned and broken off at the feet. It was found to be hollow. A fitting symbol of a man who only outwardly was in Africa for the good of Africans. Yet inside, he was hollow.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, David Livingstone is memorialized by many tribes through statues that still stand…even cities that continue to bear his name in Zambia and Malawi.

Because of Livingstone’s request, the Mission to Central Africa was founded. This group and the medical missionaries it sponsored came to have a major, positive impact on the African people.

Henry Morton Stanley teamed up with King Leopold to get rich and famous at the expense of the African people.

David Livingstone brought justice and peace to the African people because he teamed up with King Jesus…at his own expense.

**Title Slide-“Living Stone, I Presume?: How Jesus Puts Heart into Hollow” John 2:13-25**

* This is a story of 2 men. 2 men- that on the outside- looked very similar. They looked they were on the same team. They looked like they had a similar identity…and a similar mission.
* Yet, on the inside, behind the scenes….one of them was not quite what he seemed. The other…was the real deal.
* One of them was hollow, the other one was all heart.

Henry Stanley lived a life of self-glorification...that merely was covered over with a religious veneer.

Livingstone, on the other hand, was a man of deep conviction…completely willing to disappear from the public eye and give his wealth and privilege away for the sake of the African people he loved.

Both of them were worshipping. Only one of them was worshipping Jesus.

Today, in the book of John, we’re going get a close look at two temples. Both with the same outward purpose, to worship and honor God. Yet, one is hollow…and the other…is all heart.

**John 2:13-25**

* **13 The Jewish Passover was near, and so Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 In the temple he found people selling oxen, sheep, and doves, and he also found the money changers sitting there. 15 After making a whip out of cords, he drove everyone out of the temple with their sheep and oxen. He also poured out the money changers’ coins and overturned the tables. 16 He told those who were selling doves, “Get these things out of here! Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace! ”**
* **17 And his disciples remembered that it is written: Zeal for your house will consume me.**
* **18 So the Jews replied to him, “What sign will you show us for doing these things? ”**
* **19 Jesus answered, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it up in three days.”**
* **20 Therefore the Jews said, “This temple took forty-six years to build, and will you raise it up in three days? ”**
* **21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body. 22 So when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the statement Jesus had made.**

**23 While he was in Jerusalem during the Passover Festival, many believed in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. 24 Jesus, however, would not entrust himself to them, since he knew them all 25 and because he did not need anyone to testify about man; for he himself knew what was in man.**

Transition: When the truth came out about Henry Morton Stanley, that instead of a brave and selfless hero, he was actually a murderous narcissist- it made a lot of people angry. They felt like they had been fooled.

For us, its like when we find out a pastor has been sleeping with his secretary. Or when you learn a famous philanthropist has actually been running a scam.

This is what Jesus confronts in this scene in the Temple. He walks into something completely Hollow…to give it Heart again.

First, lets talk about why Jesus is angry here and what’s at the heart of what he’s trying to bring BACK into this hollow temple.

**1) Worship happens when love motivates sacrifice and inspires mission.**

* + The picture we get of Jesus here is a bit different than the one we had at the start of John chapter 2.
  + There, he was at a wedding turning water to wine.
  + Here, he’s turning over tables and cracking a whip.
  + So, what’s happening?
  + Why is it such a big deal to Jesus that people are exchanging money in the temple?
  + Well first, let’s look like at why these animal salesmen and money changers were there.
  + **ILLUS:** Imagine that you lived outside of Jerusalem. You had to walk 15 miles to come in for this celebration at Passover. Now, you know that you need to have a sacrifice, because that’s what the law calls for. For that last few years you had raised a lamb up just for the Passover. You had to be extra careful with this one, because he had to be unblemished. He had to be clean and spotless. Then when the time came you had to get this thing to walk 15 miles with you into Jerusalem. But this was no ordinary 15 miles. At Passover time, the thing was a traffic jam. There were people and animals everywhere. It was just an absolute hassle to get an animal with you.
  + Not only that, since you had spent so much time raising this little lamb, you had become rather attached to it. Maybe given it a nickname, like Snuggles.
  + So last year you took Snuggles up to the temple and the whole thing was just a nightmare. He ran off one time, rolled around on some dead animal, so he had to be ritually cleaned. He was always wanting to stop for bathroom breaks. Then, you got really choked up when you handed him over to the priest to be killed. Bye Snuggles. I’ll never forget you!
  + But on your way out, you noticed something. A sort-of sheep vending machine! Wow! That would really solve a lot of problems. I could just bring my quarter up here and get my sheep right here.
  + Boy, would that eliminate a headache! But wait a second! I don’t have Temple money. I can’t pay my temple tax or have the money to buy this animal. Oh look! They have money changers too! Awesome! This is so convenient!
  + So this year you didn’t bother with keeping up with a particular lamb that you could sacrifice. You just took the easy road up to the temple, passing right by all the chumps that had to bring animals with them. And you walked right up to the temple ready to change your money and buy a little lamb that wouldn’t bother you a bit to hand right over to the priest.
  + CHECK! All the hassle of Passover is gone, now, to enjoy the meal!
  + The problem with that is that the hassle of Passover is gone.
  + **The ready availability of animals to sacrifice was creating lazy worshippers.**
  + Now, a sacrifice really wasn’t that much of a sacrifice. Just pay your money and check off your box with God!
  + See, This was supposed to be **a reminder** to them of who God is. It was supposed to paint a picture to themselves and to other people who would watch them worship that God was the one who saved them, who rescued them from Egypt.
  + In their worship, they were to be reminded that without God, they would be slaves.
  + Now, they can go through the motions of worship and sacrifice without really giving it much thought.
  + Just get to the temple, pay your money, get your animal and…
  + There, all done!
  + Not only that, all this was taking place in the outer court of the temple, the court of the Gentiles.
  + The court of the Gentiles was intended to be a place where any non-Jew who was wondering what this YHWH was all about could come and pray. They could come to Jerusalem and see for themselves who this God was. They could hear the stories. They could talk to his followers. They could even pray to him.
  + This was supposed to be a sacred place filled with the quiet murmur of prayer and conversations with Gentiles about God.
  + Instead, it had become more like a cattle auction.
  + **Mark 11:17**
  + That’s why other gospels report Jesus quoting OT prophets saying “My house will be called a house of prayer for the nations.”
  + Jesus’ concern was that the very purposes of the temple…to honor and experience the presence of God…and to be an open door to all nations to come and meet him…those purposes had been overtaken with a consumeristic desire to make performing ritual as simple and convenient as possible.
  + …the temple had been hollowed out …to turn a profit.
  + **John 2:16**
  + **Jesus hates this.**
  + He can’t stand lazy worship of God.
  + When the act of the worship was reduced down to a single day where no thought, preparation, effort, or real sacrifice was happening it wasn’t worship. It was just hollow ritual.
  + And Jesus cannot stand that worship of his Father had been reduced to a once a year hollow ritual that forgot about God…and forgot about the gentiles.
* **Back to 1)**
  + Now, is there anything about this lazy Passover worship that sounds like the way we approach God today?
  + I think so.
  + **First, we reduce our worship down to 1 day of the week.** Not only that, we reduce it down to an hour and a half.
  + Then, in that hour we want everything to be perfect. We want the best kids programs, but there needs to be something for my teenager. Oh wait, you gotta have a college ministry with a band. But not too loud, because the older folks in the church might get upset. Oh, and pastor, why don’t you preach like the guy that I listen to on Podcast? I think I’ll just try some different churches.
  + Then Church becomes the great buffet where we take our kids to one church because they have an outer space wild west cowboys vs aliens themed kids “worship” time. But then we leave because we like the music better at that other church and the preacher only preaches for 20 minutes there.
  + What have we done to worship?
  + We want everything about our “worship” to God to be slimmed down to an hour of our week. Just like the Jews at Passover, we just want to pay someone (the pastor or the church staff) to make it easy on us.
  + **God never intended worship to be in a single moment or hour. He intended it to be in EVERY single moment and hour.**
  + The word “worship” is from an old English word “Worth-Ship”. When we worship, we give worth to something.
  + Now in this pattern of simply acknowledging God’s salvation of them not through the daily acts of raising an unblemished lamb and carrying it into Jerusalem, but just by showing up to the temple and buying a lamb someone else raised, what did that show about the worth of God?
  + It showed that the people’s comfort was more important than the reputation of God as their Savior.
  + The same is true of us when we just come on Sundays to be served, to get something.
  + All that says about God is that he’s here to give us what we want. That ultimately says that WE are the ones that show we are worthy, not God.
  + But Worship is not to just happen here in this building, We are to give worth to God everyday. Worship should happen at your job, on your campus, with your spouse, with your kids.
  + Now I’m not talking about singing.
  + **Romans 12:1**
  + **Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.**
  + Paul writes to the church in Rome that once you see that God has had mercy on you…once you see God loves you…and you are secure in that love…that sacrifice comes. But its not a lamb. Now, its you. Its your body. Its your whole life. This is your worship.
  + If you go on to read the description of a life that is sacrificed to God in worship, you’ll find that its all this outward actions that happen 7 days a week, not merely on Sunday.
  + Its love that is directed outward to others.
  + **Romans 12:3a**
  + In fact, Paul writes that YOU is the last thing you should be thinking of in the act of worship. True worship happens when the love of God, the mercy and grace that you have experienced from God makes you think less about your own convenience, it moves you away from serving yourself…and overflows to serving and loving others.
* **Back to 1)**
  + This was the difference in David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley.
  + Once you got past the veneer…two men in khaki’s and pith hats, both saying they were in Africa to stop slavery and spread the gospel…
  + Once you looked underneath…it was clear…one was hollow…the other had his heart in Africa among the people to whom his love overflowed.
  + Take a look at these 2 quotes that really show who each person was underneath.
  + The African American Missionary George Washington Williams said of Henry Stanley , **“Far from being a great hero, Stanley had been a tyrant. His name produces a shudder among this simple folk when mentioned; they remember his broken promises, his copious profanity, his hot temper, his heavy blows, his severe and rigorous measures, by which they were robbed of their lands.”**
  + This, on the other hand, is a page from Livingstone’s journal show’s HIS true character:
  + ***“I place no value on anything I have or may possess, except in relation to the kingdom of Christ. If anything will advance the interests of the kingdom, it shall be given away or kept, only as by giving or keeping it I shall promote the glory of Him to whom I owe all my hopes in time and eternity*."- Dr. David Livingstone**
* **Back to 1)**
  + **So, let me ask you?**
  + **Who are you when you leave this building?**
  + **Are you more like Henry Stanley or David Livingstone?**
  + Because, in here, singing our songs, nodding our heads to a sermon…we all look the same?
  + But are you hollow? Or do you have a heart that is sacrificing for the sake of justice and love for your neighbor?
  + Anything else isn’t worship of God? Its worship of self.
  + Its an affront to God…and eventually, just like Henry Stanley…it comes to light.
  + If I asked the people who knew you best, who saw you up close, who watch your life on a day to day basis…would they say, “This is a person who knows God. She’s all heart” Or would they say, “That is a hollow person who cares only about himself?”
  + **Does your worship cost you something?** Or do you just want to pay me to deliver a sermon and “run a church”?
  + This kind of worship is going to cost you. It is going to be inconvenient.
  + Because love is rarely convenient.
  + Giving worth to someone takes time, energy, and many times, it doesn’t make you popular.
  + It may cost you a career, a friendship, a son, a daughter, a mother, a father. It may cost you your comfort. But when we are willing to set aside our own agendas to make God known, we truly worship.
  + The Jews were going through the motions. Passover was no longer about remembering the God of their salvation, but about saving themselves from the hassle of worship.
  + When Jesus drove out the animals from the temple, he was making a statement that the only true worship of God was going to cost something. It was going to take sacrifice.
* **Transition:** So that is what Jesus was angry about. Now, lets take a look at what Jesus promises to do about it.
* **2) Jesus’ love motivated his sacrifice that inspires mission for a new temple.**
  + Do you know the difference in being motivated by anger or being motivated by love?
  + It's the difference in Henry Morton Stanley and David Livingstone.
  + Anger always seeks to preserve itself.
  + Love always seeks to preserve others.
  + That’s why when Henry Stanley was threatened…in anger…he murdered.
  + And that’s why, time and time again, when David Livingstone’s life was threatened…either by other people or by disease…he stayed in Africa...to continue his mission.
  + Jesus is certainly angry in this scene, but he’s not motivated by anger.
  + He’s motivated by love.
  + In fact, LOVE is the reason he’s angry.
  + He’s angry because what’s happening in the temple is harming people he loves.
  + Like a cancer eating away at them.
  + And that’s why Jesus doesn’t threaten to destroy the people of the temple…he invites them to destroy him.
  + **2:17**
  + the Zeal Jesus has for God’s house…is motivated by love, not anger.
  + And it leads to sacrifice.
  + It leads, to multiplying and growing the people of God…not destroying them.
  + Its interesting to me that when Jesus goes through the temple turning over tables and cracking a whip that nobody says, “HEY, quit doing that! That’s WRONG!”
  + **2:18**
  + Instead, the Jews say “What sign will you show us for doing these things?” Give us a sign that shows us that you have the AUTHORITY to turn over these tables and drive out these animal salesman
  + The reason they ask this is because the prophet Malachi predicted that someone would come into the temple to clean it out. That person would be the Messiah sent from God.
  + **Malachi 3:1-4**
  + **“See, I am going to send my messenger, and he will clear the way before me. Then the Lord you seek will suddenly come to his temple, the Messenger of the covenant you delight in ​— ​see, he is coming,” says the Lord of Armies.**
  + **2 But who can endure the day of his coming? And who will be able to stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire and like launderer’s bleach.**
  + Malachi says that when the Lord comes into his temple, that he will purify it? He will clean it like bleach or fire clean up clothing or precious metals.
  + Now, what most of the Jewish people, especially the really religious ones, believed about this Messiah, was that he would be the one that would free them from Roman oppression. So they had been waiting for someone to come in put Rome in their place. They had been waiting for someone to vindicate them. They wanted a Messiah who would say, you guys have been right all along and the Romans are the bad guys. And we’re not gonna take it anymore!
  + They wanted someone to come in and kick the Gentiles out of the temple!
  + But Jesus did just the opposite. He came into the temple and didn’t run out all the Romans, he ran out the corrupt Jews. So the Jews said, “Hey, you’re not doing it right. You’re supposed to throw THEM out, not US! Prove you have the authority to do this!.
  + You, sir, are misreading this Scripture!
  + Now, right there Jesus could have simply said, “I’m God” and then turned into a ball of fire. That probably would have done it. Everybody would have said, “OK, go ahead and turn the tables over, in fact, let me just knock this last one over for ya!”
  + But he didn’t do that. He gave them a different sign
  + **John 2:19**
  + Instead he said “Destroy this temple and in 3 days I’ll raise it up”
  + So they all laugh- “Its taken 46 years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it up in 3 days.”
  + Right there they missed the sign
  + They thought he was talking about actually tearing down the temple, but John says that he was talking about the fact that He would be killed and 3 days later be raised to life.
  + **V 21-** “He was speaking about the temple of his body”
  + See, The temple was the place where God was to dwell among his people. But now, Jesus has come as God in the flesh. What Jesus says here is that I am God and my resurrection will prove it.
  + Jesus’ claim to authority in the temple of God is that he is God.
  + In the OT book of Ezekiel, there is the recounting of Israel’s exile to Babylon, and it says that God’s glory left the temple. And it never returns.
  + Yet, God promised through Ezekiel something very important.
  + **Ezekiel 36:25-27**
  + God promised his people that he would cleanse them, purify them, and he would put a heart back into their hollow lives.
  + That heart is his Spirit.
  + And when Jesus walks into the temple…for the first time since Ezekiel 500 years earlier, the presence of God literally walks back into the temple.
  + See, in the previous story we talked about last week, at the wedding, Jesus was a guest.
  + But Now, Jesus is no longer a guest. Jesus, is saying “this is my house, and I have the authority to clean it out!”

**Back to 2)**

* + Here’s where this hits home for you and me.
  + We all want authority of our own lives. We want to want to be captain of our own ship. Master of own destiny. We want to be Henry Morton Stanley and have it all. The outward image of a great person…with no sacrifice or admitting that we are much smaller and insignificant than we want to admit.
  + And God will let you do that. He’ll let you have control of your own life as long as you want to keep it.
  + When you have control and authority or your life, your life becomes about you.
  + You develop a kind of self-righteousness that says that God needs to do something about all the people out there, but not me. I just need God to step in and give me the things I want.
    - * Comfort.
      * Money.
      * Relationships.
  + Because when you worship yourself, you expect God to worship you too.
  + But you can’t worship God like that. God is only truly worshipped when we recognize that we aren’t worthy of him. **God is only truly worshipped when we see his sacrifice for us, and we sacrifice our lives in return.**
  + **Jesus only cleans up where he is given authority.**
  + Jesus only passes out his Spirit and gives heart to the hollow when you see and say that he is worthy of worship.
  + So for you and I as we respond to the message here in John, it is not a call for us to clean ourselves up and make ourselves right worshippers of God.
  + Rather, it’s a call to hand over the keys of our life to Jesus, to give him authority so he can clean it up.
  + Jesus has the power. He demonstrates that in his resurrection from the dead.
  + See, Jesus is the true Passover lamb. He is the REAL sacrifice.
  + The death penalty was on you and me.
  + Because we don’t worship God rightly with all of our lives, and because we served ourselves instead of giving worth to God, we are bound to be driven out of the presence of God.
  + But Jesus was killed on our behalf so that death would Pass over us.
  + That makes you God’s. On the cross, He bought you out of slavery and now you are his people. He now has authority in your life if you trust him.
  + But the animals at Passover that were sacrificed NEVER got up.
  + JESUS DID!
  + He is a living sacrifice.
  + And when you follow him, you become a living sacrifice as well.
  + **John 2:21**
  + See, when Jesus was talking about raising up the temple, yes he was talking about raising up his physical body…but he was also talking about the other BODY of Christ. The church.
  + **1 Peter 2:3-5**
  + **if you have tasted that the Lord is good. 4 As you come to him, a living stone ​— ​rejected by people but chosen and honored by God ​— ​ 5 you yourselves, as living stones, a spiritual house, are being built to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ -**
  + When you see and believe that Jesus died to rescue you, to include you in his family…you become a brick in the temple. Not only a living Sacrifice, but…a LIVING STONE.
  + Dr. Living STONE I presume?
  + Jesus, Peter tells us, is the corner stone, the foundation of the new temple he is raising up. A temple not built of bricks…but of people in whom his Spirit dwells.
  + That means, that the temple is not longer in Jerusalem. The temple is wherever the presence of Jesus is. And the presence of Jesus is in all those who have tasted and seen that he is good…by believing what he did on the cross and the resurrection.
  + We have been given a New Spirit…one that reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God.
  + And so, we can sacrifice financial gain…
  + We can sacrifice reputation.
  + We can sacrifice celebrity or the best clothes, best schools, best neighborhoods, best jobs…
  + …if that’s what the mission takes to reach our neighbors who don’t know God.
  + But it all starts by handing over the keys…and letting Jesus come into your life replace your hollow…with his heart.
  + To come in with authority and drive out Henry Morton Stanley… and in his place…leave a LivingStone.
  + The answer to straightening out your life is not to do better and try harder. Rather it is believe that Jesus has the LOVE MOTIVATED power clean out YOUR temple.
  + Jesus has the same zeal for your life to be holy and pure as he did for God’s brick-and-mortar temple.
  + But he doesn’t come in to clean house until you give him the authority.
  + **V 23-25**
  + At the end of this passage, it says a bunch of people who were there at this Passover festival saw Jesus’ signs and believe.
  + But Jesus saw through the shallow belief.
  + He knew that those people only wanted to be close to Jesus because he was a celebrity. Because he was popular after turning water to wine.
  + But, John says, Jesus didn’t need anyone to tell him that.
  + Because he could see past the veneer…directly into the heart.
  + Jesus knows if you’re hollow…even if no one else knows it yet.
  + Jesus knows if you carry a external, shallow belief in him, but underneath…you are just craving money, or attention, or comfort.
  + Jesus sees through hollow ritual…and he’s angry at it.
  + But his anger was motivated by love. Love that died for you. Love that invites you today, to be a part of God’s temple.
  + Will you receive him? Will you let him in to clean you up and make you a living sacrifice?
* PRAY.