Song Lyrics Sermon – Don Williams

Many of my sermons are based on secular poems, or hymns or common everyday things like lines or mailboxes. This sermon is no different - I enjoy country music but I must admit that my favorite songs are very old country songs – the album that I have gleaned the lyrics I have been inspired to use are from 1977, Don Williams songs.

God starts with very raw materials – the song Expert at Everything has a line that says - You never do me the way that they do me but look at what you’ve done with what is left. Satan and the world does not treat us very well – we are a mess, but God can change us - look at Matthew, the tax collector, Zaccehaus also a Publican or tax collector and Saul, persecuted Christians relentlessly. They were sinners even by the world’s standards – tax collectors were hated because they had reputations of overcharging to make money for themselves. Matthew was called to be a disciple, Jesus invited himself to Zaccehaus’s house and Zaccehaus vowed to change, to payback and become a model citizen. Now Paul was as he said of himself in I Timothy 1:15 –Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. Notice Paul did not say I was a sinner – but that “I AM the worst” showing that it is a continuing problem. We are all sinners and will always be but we are saved by grace through the sacrifice of Jesus for our sins on the cross. Forgiveness is what makes the difference.

The world sometimes think that Christians do not have problems but this song tells us that Some broken hearts never mend, Some memories never end, Some tears may never dry – which is very true - Just because we are Christians does not mean we are immune from being broken hearted, having memories that we would rather forget and we cry over things that happen although we have Jesus to go to and help us through these problems we still are human and lament over things although many of them we cannot change but have to change our attitude toward these circumstances and give them over to God. The song writer ends the chorus of this song by saying “my love for you will never die”. Humanly speaking many times love for one another dies but God’s love for us will never die – His love is eternal Hebrews 13:5b – the writer reminds us of what God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy 31:6 – Moses in his speech to the people as Joshua was ready to take over –That the Lord your God will never leave or forsake you. We have that same promise. His love endures forever – Psalm 118:1-4 and all of Psalm 136 expresses God’s love for the Israelites and His love for us through Christ and His love lasts forever.

We have opened up the subject of love – the human kind of should be modeled after the love God has for us and as the lyrics to another song says “love be gentle, love be kind, as I give this heart of mine to a new love. Is the love of God something new to us? If we are believers we are to as Jesus told the Pharisees when they tried to test him in Matthew 22:36 with this question – “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” and Jesus replied in verses 37-39 – Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’” Where have we heard this before? Deuteronomy 6:5. Commands us to love God as we love ourselves. Very seldom do we find someone who hates themselves. We are to have a healthy love for ourselves so that we can love others but we should love God above everyone, including ourselves with all our hearts. Loving God, should not be difficult, after all God loves us and we are sinners, if God can love us while we are sinners we should be able to love God knowing that he died so that we could be saved from our sins once again through grace and forgiveness because of His sacrifice.

A statement was made in the song “Fallin’ in Love Again” – I know that love won’t always last, if you fall in love to fast - My question is can we fall in love with God to fast? Then be like in the parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:5-6 where some seeds fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow, when the sun came up, the plants were scorched and they withered because they had no root. I must admit I was not a big fan of Billy Graham when I was a young adult because of this very thing – I had trouble with the idea that people came to the crusades and were swept up in the excitement of the moment and then went back home to wither – but I did find out that there are people to help those who accept Jesus at the crusades to get established in their pathway. We are never through learning, no matter how old or how long we have known the Lord. Each time we study the Bible and especially Revelation find that there is a lot to learn about the end of the age although we may have read the book of Revelation many times, the Lord is revealing more and more to us as the time of the end is drawing nearer. If you are one that did accept Jesus in the excitement of the moment and feel like you may have made a mistake, don’t lose heart, read, study and become involved in a Bible based church to grow in faith.

Don Williams on this album has a song that made an attempt to be a song of faith or hope the words are these:

I want to be a worker, I want to sing and pray,

I never want to be a stumbling block along the way.

But in this hour of living, So many people say,

They all have all the answers, But they all have different ways.

The chorus is:

We can sing Glory hallelujah brother

We can sing if we put our hearts together,

We can pray, no one really has to tell us what to say.

Maybe we can really find a way.

Well, I hope it comes together, instead of all apart,

‘Cause the better things of living are written in our hearts.

But on the stage this morning the trouble is the star,

Happiness is measured by houses and our cars.

The first verse says although not in so many words that if we love the Lord we will want to be workers in the kingdom of God, we work best in an atmosphere of love and there are varying degrees of work, some work is manual labor other work is visiting, preaching and just living and being a good example for others. We do need to put our hearts together and when the words don’t come the Holy Spirit will put our prayers in the right words for the Heavenly Father.

We do all have different ways of learning about Jesus but we all must remember that there is only ONE way to the Father and that is through Jesus the Son.

We really can find a way through putting our hearts together, praying, singing, and realizing that our “wealth” is not measured by who we are or what we own, but knowing Jesus as our personal Savior and how we act and react to others because of this relationship.