

Heb 5:11-6:3

10-12-14

## Stop Being a Big Baby

### I. Announce:

- A. John & Lisa Machaca:
- B. **Slide#1** Women's Ministry Mtg: *Christmas Planning Mtg* this Tues Night, 7pm, Front Off. All ladies welcome
- C. **Slide#2** **Murrieta Field of Honor:** CMCS will be participating in the *Murrieta Field of Honor*. From Nov.9-18 *American Flags* will fly in **Murrieta's Town Square Park**.
  1. The **purpose** of these flags are to honor *military personnel, police, fire, first responder* or any family member or friend of your choosing.
  2. **Proceeds** from the Field of Honor will benefit: The Veteran's Memorial & our school.
  3. The flag sponsorship is **\$35** in the info booth today & includes: 3'x 5' **American flag**, mounted on an 8' pole (yours to keep after the event). **Ribbon** for the name of your honoree.
- D. **Slide#3** blank Pray:

### II. Intro:

- A. **Slide#4-6** I read an NBC News article entitled, "*Big Baby Boom: Supersize Deliveries Have Doctors Worried.*" Over the last few decades there's been a spike in developed countries of the birth of big babies.
  1. Last year a **Pennsylvania** woman had a 13 lbs 12oz little girl. A **German** baby weighed in at 13.5 lbs. And here in **California** came the biggest baby our state has seen, tipping the scales at 16lbs, 1.7 oz (name on screen)
  2. **Slide#7** In March last yr a **British** mom delivered "*little George,*" who weighed 15 lbs, 7oz. They took back his infant clothes, and brought him home in PJs meant for a 6 month old. At six weeks George was 26" long.
    - a) Today, hospitals are seeing a rash of **big babies**, but so are churches.
    - b) We've got **bloated believers** with **lots of fat**. They know a lot, but they need to **apply** **Slide#8** what they know...*turn it into muscle*. The message here...**Stop being a big baby!**
- B. Did/do you have a child that was the thumb sucker? Or, was bound to *mr. Binkey*? Or, inseparable from *mr. Blankey*? Do you remember what it took to **separate** them from it?
- C. **But** besides those few situations, usually kids are **anxious to grow up**.
  1. When you're 4 or 5 years old...you don't want to be **called a baby**.
  2. **Slide#9** When you're at Magic Mountain you don't want to be **1" under that line**.
  3. The years out of High School, you desperately want to be **respected as an adult**.

- D. **Slide#10 Outline:** 1st the writer describes their **Spiritual Immaturity** (5:11-13); then shows them what **Spiritual Maturity** looks like (14); then 6:1-3 tells them *How to Attain It*, **Spiritual Ambition**
1. The author is using terms of *human development* to describe the readers' **development in faith**.

### III. Slide#11 **SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY (11-13)**

- A. (11) **Dull** - Slow, sluggish. *Opp. of* keen of mind **or** sharp.
1. Yes, one of the greatest crimes in the church today is **dull teaching**, but that isn't the issue here...it's **dull hearing**. **It's the listener**.
  2. **And notice**, they had **become** dull. **It didn't start that way**.
    - a) When you 1st get saved, you are excited to **learn** of these **new fresh truths**, you're **intensely attentive & extraordinarily excited**.
    - b) But after the **newness** dies down, so does, often times...our **listening**.
      - (1) **Slide#12** Spurgeon said, **"Off go the wonder-hunters. Folly brought them; folly removes them. Babies must have new toys."**
- B. (12) **Teachers** – Not nec. literally, **not** a **prof of theology**. **It meant to have a grasp of a subject**.
- C. **First Principles** have a variety of meanings:
1. **In grammar** this meant **the letters of the alphabet** (the ABC's).
  2. **In Physics** it means the **4 basic elements** of which the world is composed [fire/earth/water/air]
  3. **In Geometry** it means the elements of proof **like the point & the straight line**.
  4. **In Philosophy** it means the 1st elementary principles w/which the students begin.
    - a) We're to keep, ***The plain things as the main things, & the main things as the plain things.***
    - b) **So his complaint is** that his hearers have been Christians for many years **& are still babes & no nearer maturity**.
    - c) He's face-to-face w/a problem that faces the church in **every** generation...***the Christian who refuses to grow up.*** [Perpetual Adolescence, **Peter Pan Syndrome**]
    - d) **Slide#13** Warren Wiersbe said, **"The ABC's of the Christian life are important, but they must be a launching pad & not a parking lot."**
    - e) **Spiritually, *Their ladders didn't reach the top.*** **Their spiritual lights were on but nobody was home.** They were a few French-fries short of a happy meal.
- D. They lacked **spiritual molars** to munch **solid food**.
1. **Spiritually how do you graduate from milk to meat?** **Obedience** is the spiritual growth hormone. **Take what you learn & apply it to your life; then repeat the process 2morow.**
    - a) It's when we go from **Bible Study** to **Bible Obedience**.

### IV. Slide#14 **SPIRITUAL MATURITY (14)**

- A. **By reason of use/practice** – Speaking not of the **process** but of the **results**.
1. **Spiritual atrophy** works the same as **physical atrophy...use it or lose it**.
- B. Some Christians refuse to grow up in **knowledge**, & refuse to grow up in **behavior**.
1. **Don't be like the surgeon** who refuses to use any new techniques or new equipment.
  2. **Don't be like the physician** who refuses to use any new drugs on the market.
  3. **Do you work in a progressing trade/business?** Most do. [usually **no growth, or no change = eventual death** in business]
    - a) In religious things it is even worse. *Why? Because God is infinite; the riches of God are unsearchable; and to the end of the day, we should be **moving forward**.*
  4. God isn't interested in our **success**. He is interested in our **maturity**.
    - a) **Slide#15** Eph.4:14,15(NIV) Then we will no longer be **infants**, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. **Instead**, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things **grow up** into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
- C. **Now**, don't walk away **sad** if this is speaking to you *baby saint*. *Don't cry over spilt milk*. Dig again...& dig deeper.
1. When they drill our wells for **water4abillion**, a good well driller **won't** stop when they first hit water. **Why not?** If the water table lowers it is going to **go dry or get muddy**. He'll drill deeper, until the water is **clear, pure, & plentiful**.
  2. **Are our lives too shallow?** Let's commit to **going deeper...going farther**.
- D. **Slide#16** Did you know there are **56 steps** leading up to the **Lincoln Memorial**? One for each year of Lincoln's life. **Ask yourself...Is each year of your life a step leading to higher ground?**
1. As Tozer said, *You're only as Holy as you want to be!*
- E. **KP Yohanan** told this story this week about **his mother**.
1. She prayed for 1 of her sons, out of 6, to be a missionary. **Every Fri, for 3 1/2 yrs, she fasted for this**. 5 brothers became business men. **She gave up hope in little KP**.
  2. One day before she died KP was upset w/her, *mother why do you where a stitched up dress? when your sons sent you \$ every week*. He found out she spent all her money from her sons to fund bible college students & missionaries. All she had in the end was **a ring** & a few other pieces of jewelry, & she told KP, *sell them when I die to reach those who do not have the gospel...I want to meet them in heaven*.
    - a) I want to know how to reach **that level of spirituality?** *or do I?*

## V. **Slide#17 SPIRITUAL AMBITION (How To Attain Spiritual Maturity) (6:1-3)**

- A. **Slide#18,19** Lobsters have to **leave their shells** in order to **grow** (molting about 10x's a yr). They need the shell to protect them from being torn apart, yet when they grow, the old shell must be abandoned. **If they did not** abandon it, the old shell would soon become their **prison...** and finally their **casket**. The tricky part for the lobster is the brief period of time between when

the old shell is discarded and the new one is formed. During that terribly vulnerable period, the transition must be scary to the lobster. Hungry schools of fish are ready to make them a part of their food chain. For awhile at least, that old shell must look pretty good.

1. Slide#20 We are not so different from lobsters. To **change** and **grow**, we must sometimes shed our shells, maybe a **structure**, or a **framework** we've depended on. **Discipleship means** being so committed to Christ that when he bids us to **follow**, we will **change**, **risk**, **grow**, and **leave** our shells behind.
  2. Are you willing to leave some things behind?
- B. Slide#21 We said *the ABC's* of the Christian life are important, **but** they must be a **launching pad** & not a *parking lot*.
- C. (1a) **Leaving** – **Not** to despise or abandon the elementary doctrines.
1. **The point is that** the **beginning** is not a **stopping** place. **It's the door to progress & the springboard to achievement.** (LKGNT)
  2. I picture the little boy in T-Ball so content to making it to **1st base**, & never wanting to leave the bag. [**The coach yells, go to 2nd**]
    - a) Today our coach Jesus from heaven yells...**take 2nd**. **What's holding us on 1st?** **Pride** we made it to first? **or, Fear** we're not sure we can make it to 2nd?
  3. Slide#22 See the sign in Heaven...**Wanted: Spiritual Growth!**
    - a) **What do you want to be when you grow up *spiritually*?**
    - b) **Would you consider yourselves *right now* in a **rut, rot,** **or** in a **revival**?**
- D. Slide#23a (1b,2) **What were the elementary principles of Christ?** This is the basic teaching one had, before he was baptized & accepted into the early church. [**The basics of faith are in 3 pairs**]
1. Slide#23b **1st Soteriology *repentance from dead works & of faith toward God***
    - a) **The first pair relates to **salvation**.** We become Christians when we realize that even our best works are as filthy rags in the eyes of God. *They're dead works.*
    - b) **No one** comes to God by their own efforts or merit. **They must turn away from the dead works of the Law & from their fatal attempt of *self-salvation*.** Salvation is a gift from God, by grace through faith.
    - c) **Repentance must** be joined w/**faith**. *Merely turning from dead works would accomplish nothing.*
  2. Slide#23c **2nd Pneumatology *doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands***
    - a) **This second pair** of basic Christian truths concern **the work of the Holy Spirit**.
    - b) Notice Paul says, **baptisms** plural. There are 3 baptisms spoken of in the NT:
      - (1) **First**, there's the baptism **into** the Body of Christ [**the sp initiation, the fusion that takes place by the Spirit when we're born again into the family of God**]
      - (2) **Second**, there's symbolic **water** baptism.

(3) **Third**, there's the **baptism, or anointing, or the point-in-time filling** of the power of the Holy Spirit upon our lives. *We need to experience all 3 baptisms.*

c) Then there's also the *laying on of hands* by church members...which also relates to **the work of the Spirit**.

(1) In the early church when a person was appointed by the H.S. **to an office** in the church **or a mission** of the church, it was confirmed by the laying on of hands.

(2) **Or** when spiritual gifts were received they sometimes came through the **laying on of hands**. God often uses the touch of holy hands to impart spiritual dynamic.

(a) Acts 19:5,6 **When they heard this** (Johns Bap), they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had **laid hands on** them, the Holy Spirit came **upon** them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

3. **Slide#23d 3rd Eschatology** *res of the dead, and of eternal judgment*

a) The third pair of basic doctrines deal with the **end times**.

b) One day, the bodies of both **the righteous and the wicked** will be *resurrected immortal*. Every human being will live forever...**but** then comes *the judgment*...where you will be assigned to *heaven* or to *hell*.

c) If you don't have a handle on these **3 areas** of Christianity: **salvation, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the final judgment** then you've have some catchin-up to do.

E. (3) **And God permitting, we will do so.** (NIV)

1. **Slide#24 Do what? see 1a...we'll leave off & go on!**

a) **Leave** the discussion of elementary principles **& go on** to perfection.

F. One of GFA's graduates, went 2000 miles from his home, up north which is full of Muslim radicals. When having a difficult time he remembered, **"Oh yah...this is where I came to die."**

G. **What do you plan on doing with this Sermon?**

1. **Will you take a spiritual hearing test?** (dull of hearing, **or** hear whale sounds under water)

2. **Will you evaluate if you are still spiritually on a baby's bottle, baby food, or solid foods?** (vegetarian, vegan, meatatarian?)

3. **How would you consider your maturity?** (toddler, adolescent, young adult, **or** adult)

4. **If obedience is a spiritual growth hormone...how often will you take it?**

5. **If you have been, are you ready to Stop Being a Big Baby?**

6. **Are you comfortable staying on 1st base, or ready to steal 2nd this morning?**