**MIMIC, MIME, OR MASTER**

**EPHESIANS 4:11-15**

**I. MIMIC**

 Ephesians 5:1, “*Be ye therefore followers* (mimic) *of God, as dear children;*”

mim·ic

1. to imitate or copy in action, speech, etc., often playfully or derisively.

2. to imitate in a servile or unthinking way; ape.

3. to be an imitation of; simulate; resemble closely.

4. a copy or imitation of something

 Children probably learn more by watching and imitating than any other way.

 Children copy their parents’ behavior or mannerisms.

 In some ways it is a good thing, but in some ways it is scary.

 I have seen little children pretend to be smoking a cigarette because they have watched their parents do it.

 It is a great way to learn, but not a great way to live.

 Children do not have any reason why they are doing what they are doing.

 They just think it is cool to do what grown-ups do.

 Somebody is doing something and they want to be a part of it.

(CALL UP BRO. AARON AND MICAH; dad has real tools and hammers something together; son has toy tools)

 Micah does not understand that this is work.

 It is toilsome. It is labor.

 It takes *time*, *energy*, and *sweat*.

 But right now dad is cool, and so he wants to do what dad does.

 If dad does it must be alright.

 If dad does it there must be a purpose.

 I don’t know what I am supposed to do, so I’m going to be like dad.

 Unfortunately we have some people in our churches and in this school who are the same way, and that is how they choose to exist.

 We have some people who don’t know why they *raise their hands* they just do because everyone else is doing it.

 They *pray* because everyone else is praying.

 They *stand up* in church to back the preacher because everyone else is doing it.

 They do not want to be left out.

 They don’t want to look like the oddball so they just do it.

 All the religion they have is monkey *see*; monkey *do*.

 Some people have got to try to love and it’s awkward for them and everyone else, because they do not have love in their heart.

 Some people have to act religious, but it is obvious they do not have a *relationship* with God.

 If all you have is an imitation religion, and an imitation anointing, and an imitation walk with God you have *missed* it!

 The 7 sons of Sceva.

 Acts 19:13-16, “*Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth.* 14 *And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so.* 15 *And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?* 16 *And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded*.”

 Elisha started out being no more than a mimic of Elijah.

 He simply followed Elijah around and watched him perform miracles.

 Elijah wanted him to stay at Gilgal; then Bethel, Jericho, Jordan.

 Every time Elisha said “*No, there is still stuff I don’t know, and I want to know all the tricks of the trade before you go.*”

 And so he followed on.

 II Kings 2:8, “*And Elijah took his mantle, and wrapped it together, and smote the waters, and they were divided hither and thither, so that they two went over on dry ground.*”

 II Kings 2:13-14, “*He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan;* 14 *And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.*”

 He might have started out that way, but he didn’t end up that way!

 When the mantle fell he went from being a *mimic* to being a master!

 And we read in the Bible where he performed 2x as many miracles as Elijah did!

 You remember the old classic story of a soldier in Alexander’s army whose name was Alexander, but when the battle was raging he trembled. Then Alexander said to him, “*How canst thou bear the name of Alexander? Drop thy cowardice or drop thy name.*”

 If we bear the name Christian; then let us be like Christ!

 If we bear the name minister; then let us be one.

 There comes a point in time when you stop watching and start working.

 It is alright to be a mimic when you start out.

 I am glad you have found good people to follow after.

 I am glad you want to do the right thing.

 I am glad that there are patterns of godly men and women to follow after.

 It is alright to be a mimic if you don’t know what you are *doing* and where you are *going*.

 Hebrews 6:12, “*That ye be not slothful, but followers* (mimics) *of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.*”

 The writer was saying, “*Don’t sit around and watch, at least get up and get on board with what somebody else is doing for God.*”

 But you have to come to the place where you know why God has called you.

 You know what God wants to do with your life.

 Ephesians 5:17, “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*”

 There comes a point in time where we try to quit being like everyone else and we begin to diligently seek after the will of God for our lives.

 God called you to this for a purpose, and it is time some of you found out instead of just floating around!

 There are some of you who do not know why you believe what you believe.

 There comes a time when you study it out and realize you have to have some convictions for myself.

**II. MIME**

1. the art or technique of portraying a character, mood, idea, or narration by gestures and bodily movements; pantomime.

2. an actor who specializes in this art.

3. an ancient Greek or Roman farce that depended for effect largely upon ludicrous actions and gestures.

\*\*(HAVE JACOB COME UP)\*\*

 A mime can go through the motions.

 They know what they are supposed to do.

 They know why you have a hammer and a nail.

 They know that there is work *involved*; a task that needs to be *accomplished*.

 They can do everything thing right.

 They do not have to mimic anyone.

 They might even be more of a professional then the real McCoy.

 But the problem with a mime is that they have no tools.

 They have the knowledge, but not the *power*.

 They have the ability, but not the *anointing*.

 They have an understanding, but not an *unction*.

 They can show you how something is to be done, but they cannot do it themselves.

 All they are is an actor on a stage.

**A. CAIN WAS A MIME**

 Genesis 4:3-4, “*And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.* 4 *And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:*”

 He realized that he needed to worship.

 He realized that he needed to sacrifice.

 He realized that he owed something to God.

 But we read on further that “*unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect.*”—Gen. 4:5.

 You see, Cain was willing to go so far, but no farther.

 He wanted religion, but he wanted it his way.

 When you serve God it is all or nothing.

 Luke 18:28, “*Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.*”

 Luke 9:62, “*And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*”

 Romans 12:2, “*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*”

 You say, “*Bro. Carter, I’m having a hard time with that.*”

 Psalm 118:27, “*bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar.*”

 Tie that sacrifice where it cannot get away.

 It used to be said by the Jews that no animals were so restive as those which were brought for sacrifice to the altar.

 God wants your *ears*, your *feet*, your *hands*, your *body*, your *mind*, your *talents*.

 You can’t have it your way; your all has to be on the altar!

 Quit going through the motions and playing games with God!

 Why play dress up in a costume, when you can have and be the real thing!!!

**B. SAMSON WAS A MIME**

 Judges 16:20, “*And she said, The Philistines be upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself...*”

 What Samson was saying is that, “*I have been here before. I have done this before. I can do it again.*”

 But the problem was that “…*he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.*”

 He could act, but he was not *anointed*.

 He could pretend, but he had no *power*.

 He knew that something needed to be *accomplished*.

 He knew an enemy needed to be *defeated*, but he had no divine energy to *eliminate* the Philistines.

 A hero, became a zero.

 He lost his *vision*.

 He lost his *liberty*.

 He lost his *effectiveness*.

 And because of it the people of God suffered.

 Somebody is depending upon you to be the real thing!

**C. THE 5 FOOLISH VIRGINS WERE MIMES**

 Matthew 25:3, “*They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:*”

 They were *pure*.

 They were *spotless*.

 They liked good company.

 They had the right motives—heaven.

 But they didn’t have any oil!!!

 It amazes me how think we can live this Christian life without the Holy Spirit.

 It amazes me how we think we are going to be a powerful Christian without a prayer life; without a daily devotional life.

 I am glad you have knowledge!

 But knowledge without an anointing is like a Lamborghini without gasoline!

 (Simon the Sorcerer; Pharisee).

 We have had enough *mimics* and *mimes*. What we need are some masters!

 Somebody who doesn’t have to mimic everybody else doing something, but can *move out* under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

 Somebody who has the power of the Holy Spirit, and not just some *presentation*!

 We need some people who can do more than *pretend*, but who can perform!

**III. MASTER**

mas·ter

1. a person with the ability or power to use, control, or dispose of something: a master of six languages.

2. an owner of a slave, animal, etc.

3. a person eminently skilled in something, as an occupation, art, or science.

**A. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

 Matthew 11:7-10, “*And as they departed, Jesus began to say unto the multitudes concerning John, What went ye out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken with the wind?* 8 *But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? behold, they that wear soft clothing are in kings' houses.* 9 *But what went ye out for to see? A prophet? yea, I say unto you, and more than a prophet.* 10 *For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*”

**1. He was Steadfast**

 “The reed spoke of a tall 10 to 12 foot cane with a flower cluster at the top. The reed, however, is so thin and weak that it will *lay flat* on the ground when a small wind blows on it.”

 John the Baptist was not a reed shaking in the wind being pushed around and falling for every new thing, but he was as a wind shaking the reeds!

 He didn’t cater to the crowd, but was a man of *conviction* and *courage*.

 He didn’t back down to the heathen Herod, nor to the self-righteous Pharisee.

 He was not worrying about his popularity standing, but the people’s standing with Almighty God.

 Jesus was saying that he never backed down of his testimony of Him.

 John was *steadfast* in his walk, *convinced* of the truth, and he *continued* to believe it and preach it.

 He had convictions and he was willing to die for them.

 He stood like a giant oak tree.

 It didn’t matter how anyone else stood; he stood upright!

 He wasn’t some *empty* hollow-reed, but he was full of the sap of the Spirit!

**2. He had Self-Denial**

 Some derive their greatness from their attire. They affect “soft clothing.” They are dependent for their distinction upon the skill of their tailor or dressmaker.

 Some people only want a religion that is a matter of *comfort* and *consolation*.

 Some derive their greatness from their atmosphere. “They that wear soft raiment are in kings’ houses.”

 But john derived his greatness for *what* he preached and *who* he served.

 Wherever John went there was a mighty movement.

 The kingdom of God was preached, and every man was pressing into it.

 Matthew 11:8, “*But what went ye out for to see?*”

 Why should someone listen to you *preach*?

 Why should they listen to you *sing*?

 Why should they take your *advice*?

**A. A MASTER IS ONE WHO WORKS**

 It is the courage of duty!

 Noah *preached* on; even though he was the only one.

 Job *worshipped* on; even though it appeared everything was gone.

 Joshua *marched* on; even though it seemed to be foolish.

 So what’s my duty?

 Solomon tells us “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:* ***Fear God****, and* ***keep his commandments****: for this is the whole duty of man.*”—(Eccles. 12:13).

 That is what you do every morning when you wake up!

 That is what you do every day, until God begins to add something else for you to do.

**B. A MASTER IS ONE WHO WATCHES**

 I Corinthians 16:13, “*Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.*”

 Watch ye—You have an enemy of your soul; be continually on your guard; be always circumspect:—

1. Watch against evil;

2. Watch for opportunities to do good;

3. Watch over each other in love;

4. Watch, that no one turns you aside from the belief and unity of the Gospel.

5. Watch, that you do not place a stumbling block in somebody else’s path.

 Failure to “watch” can result in one being blindsided by *evil* and *temptation*.

 Many people have fallen, because they weren’t expecting a temptation to be there and when it came they were not prepared.

 What will become of an army if the sentries go to sleep?

 We have to be *awake*!

 We have to be *alert*!

 Wake up Peter!

 I know your tired, but if you only knew what lay ahead you would be fearing for your soul!

 Wake up Eutychus!

 We can’t tell whether you’re half in the window, or half out.

 God, give us some masters who are not afraid to *work*, and not afraid to *watch*!

**C. A MASTER IS ONE WHO WARS**

 The Scribes and Pharisees lost the kingdom though they had everything in their favor.

 But there was another group of people who had nothing going for them, made their way into the Kingdom of God.

 They were known as the “*violent*”, and they won the Kingdom of God with everything against them!

Jesus said, “*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence* (is gotten by force) *, and the violent take it by force.*”

 That little phrase “*quit you like men, be strong*” means “to show oneself a man, to be bold and brave. It means to not be timid, cowardly, or afraid of the enemy’s advances.

 Greeks and Romans had but one word for courage and virtue.

 The coward in battle had better not return to face either his country or his home.

 The man who left wife or child a prey to violence or fire was henceforth an outlaw.

 If the wrestler must use force when his opponent comes against him; then we must wrestle against *principalities* and *powers*.

 If the soldier must use force when an army is coming against him; then we must use force against the *squadrons of hell*.

 If the adventurer must use force to scale mountains, strive through deserts, overcome obstacles; then we must use force against the *hindrances* and *hurdles* that would block our path.

 What kind of strength is required?

 Physical strength? No, that is not enough. We share that with *lower animals*.

 Intellectual power? No, because unfortunately that can be *perverted* and *misused*.

 While these have their place it nothing but spiritual strength will carry God’s warrior triumphantly through the battle on to victory!

 The door is *opened* to the persistent knocking.

 The bread is *given* to the unwearied demand.

 The treasure is *found* by the one who has been seeking.

 I John 4;17, “*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment:* ***because as he is, so are we in this world****.*”

 Are we resembling Christ to a lost and dying world?

 Are we resembling Christ to a church that is sitting in apathy?

 Are we doing His works?

 Is our potential matching up to His *power*?

 Is our purity matching up to His *perfectness*?

 Is our purpose matching up to His *plan*?

 God’s purpose is not to make us happy, but holy!

 It is not about what He can do for you, but about what you can do for Him.

 God give us some masters!

 Emerson said, “*In Italy, Napoleon sought for men, and found none.*”

 Napoleon said, “*Good God, how rare men are! There are eighteen millions in Italy, and I have with difficulty found two—Dandolo and Melzi.”*

 Diogenes (a Greek philosopher who advocated self-control and the pursuit of virtue by simple living) is said to have gone through the streets of Athens, in broad daylight, with a lighted lantern in his hand, and when asked by a citizen for the object of his search, he replied, saying: “*A man, sir, a man. I have found children in Sparta and women in Athens, but I have not found a man.*”

**CON:**

 It is ok to start out being a mimic; as long as you are mimicking the right thing!

 It is alright to progress be a mime; as long as you are trying to do the right thing!

 But there comes a point in time where you are no longer depending upon someone else to feed you.

 There comes a point in time where you do not have to be carried.

 There comes a point in time when you get the Holy Ghost for yourself.

 A calling for yourself.

 An anointing for yourself.

 Are you willing to pay the price?

PREPARED BY: BRO. JAYME D. CARTER