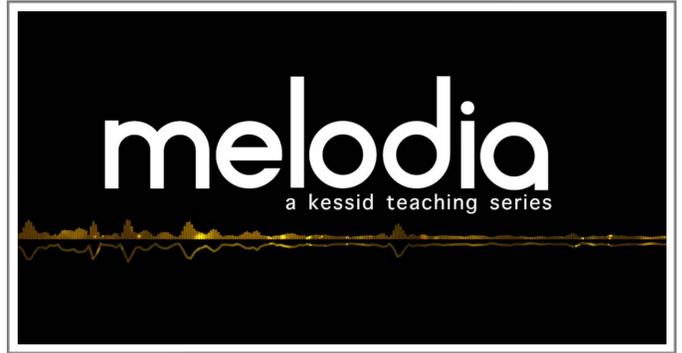


"EL PASTOR"**Date:** March 14, 2021**Speaker:** Danny Clinton**Song History:**

- The song was written by Miguel Aceves Mejía who was a Mexican actor, composer, and singer.
- He was the first Mexican Folkloric singer to travel around the American Continent with world tours...
- This particular version of the song is being sang by my Wife's Father and Uncles Band Mariachi Cobre they helped found in 1964.
- **Question:** How many people know what the song's about?

I have a purpose for the song: It's meant to "Other" You...

- The simple language and style barrier is meant to exclude as many of you as possible...
- By "othering," we mean - **Def:** "Any action by which an individual or group becomes mentally classified in somebody's mind as "not one of us."

This makes us uncomfortable – Because at each of our cores is a deep desire to belong and be included with the majority...

- A number of psychological experiments, such as the "Asch Conformity Experiment," demonstrate the extent to which we feel compelled to make sure we fit in, as part of the tribe, in most situations....

Illustration: Asch Conformity Experiment

- Findings: Asch measured the number of times each participant conformed to the majority view. On average, about one third (32%) of the participants who were placed in this situation went along and conformed with the clearly incorrect majority on the critical trials.

Over the 12 critical trials, about 75% of participants conformed at least once, and 25% of participants never conformed. In the control group, with no pressure to conform to confederates, less than 1% of participants gave the wrong answer.

- **Question:** Why did the participants conform so readily?

Conclusion: When they were interviewed after the experiment, most of them said that they did not really believe their conforming answers, but had gone along with the group for fear of being ridiculed or thought 'peculiar.'

- A few of them said that they really did believe the group's answers were correct.
- Apparently... "People conform for two main reasons."
- Because they want to fit in with the group (normative influence).
- Because they believe the group is better informed than they are (informational influence).

I say all of this so that we can better wrestle with an often difficult to grasp teaching of Jesus...

- In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus discusses the behavior of those who will inherit the kingdom...

(Vs) Matthew 25:34-36 – Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me."

This is all pointing toward the well taught Spiritual Principle of "Hospitality."

- Hospitality is a virtue that is both commanded and commended throughout Scripture...
- Hospitality can be defined as - **Def:** "The quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way."
- In the New Testament... Greek word translated "hospitality" literally means "love of strangers."
- But one verse stands out to me as the most encompassing of all the hospitality verses...

(Vs) 1st Peter 4:9 – "Show hospitality to one another without grumbling"

The way this verse reads, it's quite clear that you cannot be hospitable on the outside while having a rotten attitude on the inside.

- Our attitudes matter! We at Kessid have called this our "Spiritual Posture"
- **Def:** "Attitude is the psychological term for the bundle of beliefs and feelings you experience toward a person, topic, idea, etc. without having to consciously think."
- Let's try it out by showing you images... 'Justin Bieber' Feel that? That's your attitude toward him – a cascade of associations and feelings zipping along your neural net...
 - ➡ Let's try some more – 'Blueberry Cheesecake'
 - ➡ One more – 'Nuclear Bomb'
- There we all go again; a lightning bolt of brain activity is telling us how we feel about each topic...
- **Question:** "How did you form that attitude?"

Quote: "For many things, your attitudes came from actions, which led to observations, which led to explanations, which led to beliefs."

This is known as the 'Benjamin Franklin Theory.'

- **Common Misconception:** You do nice things for the people you like and bad things to the people you hate.
- **Complex Truth:** You grow to like the people for whom you do nice things and hate the people you harm.

"The things you do often create the things you believe."

(Vs) Luke 4:13 – Jesus said, "But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind..."

He's Saying... Invite "The Others."

- **Question:** Why?
- So, I'll be "Blessed?" Like I'll receive a gift from God for helping these people? That's like saying I get a "Poor Person Prize."
- So, what is He saying then? Why is He wanting us to do this?

Jesus is directly addressing the universal truth that all humans, at some level, have an undeniable inclination to engage in "othering" thought patterns...

- And so, Jesus is teaching that actively learning to avoid and counteract these thought patterns is integral to greatly reducing the world's hatred and suffering as well as for my own heart's reconstruction...
- Jesus is inviting us to invite "Others" into our lives not only because it's helpful to THEM, but because it's transformative for US...

He's saying "Be like me and do what I do... Because once you do what I do, (Action) you will love like I love. (Attitude)"

We say a lot around here that we want to be "A House of Conversation." (S1)

- Another word for "House of Conversation" is "A Community of Difference." (S2)

(Vs) Ephesians 2:10 – "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

- By serving others who are different than us, we not only serve Christ, but we are also blessed by becoming more like Him...

A Kessid Experiment: "Moving to a place of not policing masks."

- **Questions:** When it comes to being Hospitable without grumbling...
- How have I handled being in the "Majority?"
- What happens when I'm "The Other?"

Song Meaning: Oh, and may I share with you what the opening song said?

My Favorite Verses from “El Pastor” ...

*The shepherd goes with his flock
At the break of dawn
Going down through the path
From the mountains to the meadows*

*The shepherd is going back,
Since the sun is hiding
He is going up through the slope
To keep watch over his flock.*

*With his flute he goes calling
One by one his sheep
And he is communicating to them
His joys and his sorrows.*

The song is about: A Shepherd who’s playing His ‘Melodia’ while all the sheep are following...
Everyone’s invited and included to be a part.