

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32

“And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free”

May 28, 2023

BIBLICAL GOSPEL PREACHER

by Jim Stauffer

And hearing this, the ten became indignant with the two brothers. But Jesus called them to Himself and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. “It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.” (Matthew 20:24–28)

The verses above are the answer of the Lord to His disciples who had designs on greatness in the kingdom. The kingdom under consideration is the kingdom of the Son of God. That kingdom is composed of those who have been rescued from the rule of Satan as they live in the darkness of sin (**Colossians 1:13,14; Ephesians 2:1-3**).

All throughout His personal ministry on the earth the Lord taught humility. He taught humble submission in word (**Luke 18:9-14**). He taught humble submission in deed (**John 18:4-11**). All this was to complete His mission and to enlist all who would come to Him, in carrying out the mission of the gospel after He left the earth (**Luke 19:10**).

Jesus did not teach His disciples, those men with whom He entrusted the word of God by way of the Holy Spirit (**1 Corinthians 2:10-13**), to make a big splash in the world by wearing fancy clothes, becoming wealthy at the expense of their followers and generally living the good life.

Instead he told them these words, *“If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. “If you were of the world, the world would love its own;*

but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you. “Remember the word that I said to you, ‘A slave is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also. “But all these things they will do to you for My name’s sake, because they do not know the One who sent Me. (John 15:18–21) “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a slave above his master. “It is enough for the disciple that he become like his teacher, and the slave like his master. If they have called the head of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign the members of his household! (Matthew 10:24–25)

Remember both the conduct of Jesus while He was on the earth and His words to His followers the next time you see a supposed preacher of the gospel, arrive in your city with grandeur demonstrated clearly by the wealth of his organization. Or when you see one on television who has a \$400.00 haircut and \$2000.00 suit begging for you to support his mission.

The Power of Simplicity

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and "to the point" teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing forth its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. *"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul... spoke to them ..."* (**Acts 20:7**). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (**Philippians 1:1**). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no inter-church organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? *"That no flesh should glory in His presence"* (**1 Corinthians 1:29**). The complex systems which men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

Someone has said: "How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!" What He is seeking for

is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple.

by Bill Hall

Giving: The Example of Christ Don Wright

Christianity is about giving. It came about because God was willing to give His only begotten Son (**John 3:16**). Jesus, to fulfill God's scheme of redemption, was willing to give His life on the cross (**Hebrews 12:2**). The giving of Christ, however, began long before the cross. In an attempt to encourage Christians to give, Paul uses the giving of Jesus as an example. Here is what he wrote [**in 2 Corinthians 8:9**]. *"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."* Have you ever seen such giving? Let us look more closely at these words from Paul.

"...though He was rich..." Paul was not referring to what Jesus had on earth, but rather to what He possessed before His incarnation. He was rich in that the world was His for He created all things (**Colossians 1:18; Psalms 50:9-12**). Jesus was rich in comfort, glory, and authority. There was nothing that He wanted that He did not possess. Furthermore, Jesus was rich, not only because of what He had, but where He was. He was in heaven, the place where we want to be. But what we find is that He gave it up.

"...he became poor..." In **Philippians 2:7** Paul said that Jesus *"...made himself of no reputation..."* The implication is that in heaven Jesus had reputation. The word reputation means, "a place in public esteem or regard, and has to do with having a good name..." Without question, Jesus was a person of repute among the inhabitants of heaven.

When Jesus came to earth, He lost that reputation. The angels never stopped recognizing Him as a person of the Godhead because they knew He was God (**Hebrews 1:3-6**), but the common man on earth did not esteem Him as being anyone of importance. In fact, for the most part, He was despised by man (**Isaiah 53:1-3; Mark 6:1-5; Matthew 27-31**). And so He made himself of no reputation, or as the E.S.V. says, *"He emptied himself,"* not of His deity, but of the position that He had in heaven, and of the glory and comfort that went along

with it (**Matthew 8:20**). In other words, He emptied himself of the expression of deity, not the possession of it. Surely we see that Jesus, who was rich in heaven, became poor. The question is why did He do it? Paul tells us:

“...so that you by His poverty might be rich.” Jesus did not give so much for Himself. There was no selfish motive involved in what He did. He sacrificed the riches of heaven for one reason, and for one reason only—so that we might be rich, and rich we are in Christ. We have fellowship with God (**1 John 1:4-7**). Why? Because Jesus was willing to give. We have access to God’s throne through prayer (**1 John 5:13-15**). Why? Because Jesus gave. We have an incorruptible home of bliss, comfort, and joy awaiting us in heaven (**1 Peter 1:3-5**). Why? Because Jesus was willing to be made poor so that we might be made rich. Have you ever seen such giving? For me, the answer is no, and I am confident that you feel the same way. No one has ever given so much, not just for those who love Him, but even for those who hated Him.

A Sweet Lesson In Humanity

Years ago, a 10-year-old boy approached the counter of a soda shop and climbed onto a stool. “What does an ice cream sundae cost?” he asked the waitress.

“Fifty cents,” she answered.

The youngster reached deep in his pockets and pulled out an assortment of change, counting it carefully as the waitress grew impatient. She had “bigger” customers to wait on.

“Well, how much would just *plain ice cream* be?” the boy asked.

The waitress responded with noticeable irritation in her voice. “Thirty-five cents.”

Again, the boy slowly counted his money. “May I have some plain ice cream in a dish then, please?” He gave the waitress the correct amount, and she brought him the ice cream.

Later, the waitress returned to clear the boy’s dish and when she picked it up, she felt a lump in her throat. There on the counter the boy had left two nickels and

five pennies. She realized that he had had enough money for the sundae, but sacrificed it so that he could leave her a tip.

The moral: Before passing judgment, first treat others with courtesy, dignity, and respect.

(Adapted from *A Lifetime of Success*, Pat Williams, Fleming H. Revell)

Didn’t Christ have some words about this, as well? For one thing, he said that we should not be a respecter of persons. Do we sometimes give more attention to those who are well off than those who are obviously poor? Do we curry the favor of the rich more than those who are lacking?

A word similar to the “humanity” in the title is “humility.” The waitress’s humanity was somewhat humbled at what had happened with the little boy.

Do you recall a lesson on humility that Christ taught? *“And He sat down opposite the treasury, and began observing how the people were putting money into the treasury; and many rich people were putting in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which amount to a cent. Calling His disciples to Him, He said to them, “Truly I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she owned, all she had to live on.” (Mark 12:41-44)*

James had some thoughts worth considering, as well. *“My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism. For if a man comes into your assembly with a gold ring and dressed in fine clothes, and there also comes in a poor man in dirty clothes, and you pay special attention to the one who is wearing the fine clothes, and say, “You sit here in a good place,” and you say to the poor man, “You stand over there, or sit down by my footstool,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil motives?” (James 2:1-4)*

Let us remember that the soul of the humble is worth the same as that of any human being, whether rich or poor. God blesses those who have the humility to be humble. *“You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” (1 Peter 5:5)*
Jefferson David Tant, jdtant3@juno.com

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

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Bible Classes: Sunday Morning
Prayer - Ron Peck

Wednesday Evening - **Minor Prophets - Jim Stauffer**

Sunday Sermon: **Walking in the Light of the Lord**



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10