

2001 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the
Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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March 11th, 2001

CALLUSED BY THE CULTURE

by Greg Gwin

"IT DOESN'T FIT MY HAND!" That was the excuse an old friend would always offer whenever there was a job that required a shovel, rake, or hoe. Well, in reality, such tools don't fit anyone's hand. The evidence of this fact is seen in the soreness and blisters that appear when these implements are first employed. But, if you stick with it, you can get over the irritation. In fact, seasoned workers develop calluses from their prolonged exposure. They no longer feel the pain. Calluses, you see, result in a reduced sensitive to the things that would normally cause an unpleasant reaction.

There is a spiritual parallel to the scenario we have just described. However, in this realm it is a hurtful rather than helpful phenomenon. It goes like this: A Christian is in repeated contact with the elements of this world. The immorality, violence, vulgarity, immodesty, sensuality and wickedness of society are an affront to his spiritual sensitivities. He is troubled by what he sees -- it hurts him. But, little by little, he begins to grow hardened to this irritation. Oh, yes, he still recognizes sin, but somehow it just does not torture him quite so much when he sees it. At first, for instance, he would turn off a TV program in disgust when sex or bad language was aired. But now, because of his prolonged exposure to such things, he can sit right through it -- taking it all in -- and in the process growing even more callused to the wickedness he sees. Gradually, he demonstrates less and less discretion about the things he sees and hears, about the places he goes, the things he does, the way he talks, the clothes he wears. You see, his very spiritual being has been altered. He has become callused by the evil culture. In Sodom, Lot was "oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men" and he was "tormented day after day with their lawless deeds" (**2 Pet. 2:7-8**). But, he stayed on -- year after year -- until, finally, he suffered the loss of everything. We can ill afford to follow his sad example. Let us all remain sensitive to the evils around us, and join the Psalmist in saying: *"From thy precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way"* (**Ps. 119:104**).

-- from Columbia, TN ggwin@edge.net

GREETINGS BIBLE READERS!

We all know that there is no such thing as absolute freedom. We cannot drive down the street at 100 miles per hour, or you cannot swing your fist at me because your freedom stops at the end of my nose. Some say that we must have the freedom to publish pornography, push harmful drugs, to have unrestricted sex, to lie, and cheat. But if we continue with this kind of permissive freedom, we will destroy ourselves.

Man can remain free only as long as he has the moral power to restrain his appetites. Our problem, basically is heart trouble. Our hearts need to be changed. Jesus is the One who can truly change our hearts, conform us, and teach us how to become the people that God wants us to be.

I pray that we realize our need for His guidance in our lives, to let Him change our hearts, and free us from the bondage of our carnal appetites.

REFLECTING:

We live in the world, but we must not let the world live in us.

To master temptation, let Christ master you.

A changed life results from a changed heart.

--via Ray & Carol Rude

THE MAKING OF A MAN

It is not what we eat, but what we digest, that makes us strong.

It's not what we read, but what we remember, that makes us learned.

It's not what we gain, but what we save, that makes us rich; and

It's not what we profess, but what we practice, that makes us good Christians.

SERVICES HERE:

SUNDAY:

Classes 9:00 AM

Worship 9:55 AM

Eve Worship 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY:

Classes 7:00 PM

PLEASE BE BUSY PRAYING FOR AND SERVING ONE ANOTHER

THE SICK:

William & Helen Gray Evie Westphal
Sue & Truman Claiborne Willia Lockett
Josie Steadman Rick Saccone
Rena Shultz

THOSE TRAVELLING:

Carl Romine leaves for Boston tomorrow for a few days work there. Please pray for him.

Thank you for your prayers and ministering efforts to those who are ill or traveling. May God bless all of our serving!

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Start Now!

“Now is the accepted time – today is the day of salvation!” --2 Cor 6:2

When I get to heaven I'm really going to enjoy sitting around and visiting with all those redeemed who have served God so diligently.⁽¹⁾ I look forward to singing with them around the great white throne of God.⁽²⁾ I yearn to hear their tales of what serving God was like in different ages.⁽³⁾ And I especially want to have the apostles tell me what their thoughts and understandings were as they companied with Jesus here on earth.⁽⁴⁾

- (1) Many who think this actually feel out of place doing it now! Do you really think such an attitude will be changed just by us dying?
- (2) SINGING? We can do it now! Do you seek such times?
- (3) Interested in such? We can get a head start, because God has already told us in His word all those people can.
- (4) They were moved by love and compassion. They had fortitude and conviction. The Bible tells us so!

You think your job is tough?

TEACHER'S JOB DESCRIPTION

(For a public school teacher)

Let me see if I've got this right...

You want me to go into a room with all those kids, and fill their every waking moment with a love for learning. Not only that, I'm to instill a sense of pride in their ethnicity, modify disruptive behavior, and observe them for signs of abuse, drugs, and T-shirt messages.

I am to fight the war on drugs and sexually transmitted diseases, check their backpacks for guns and raise their self-esteem. I'm to teach them patriotism, good citizenship, sportsmanship and fair play, how and where to register to vote, how to balance a checkbook and how to apply for a job, but I am never to ask if they are in this country illegally.

I am to check their heads occasionally for lice, maintain a safe environment, recognize signs of potential antisocial behavior, offer advice, write letters of recommendation for student employment and scholarships, encourage respect for the cultural diversity of others, and oh, yes, teach, always making sure that I give the girls in my class fifty percent of my attention.

I'm required by my contract to be working, on my own time, summer and evenings and at my own expense towards additional certification, advance certification and a master's degree, to sponsor the cheerleaders or the sophomore class and after school I am to attend committee and faculty meetings and participate in staff development training to maintain my current certification and employment status.

I am to collect data and maintain all records to support and document our building's progress in the selected state mandated program to "assess and upgrade educational excellence in the public schools."

I am to be a paragon of virtue larger than life, such that my very presence will awe my students into being obedient and respectful of authority. I am to pledge allegiance to supporting family values, a return to the basics, and my current administration.

I am to incorporate technology into the learning, but monitor all web sites for appropriateness, while providing a personal one-on-one relationship with each student. I am to decide who might be potentially dangerous and/or liable to commit crimes in school or who is possibly being abused, and I can be sent to jail for not mentioning these suspicions to those in authority.

I am to make sure ALL students pass the state and federally-mandated testing in all classes, whether or not they attend school on a regular basis or complete any of the work assigned. I am to communicate frequently with each student's parent by letter, phone, newsletter and grade cards.

I'm to do all of this with just a piece of chalk, a computer, a few books, a bulletin board, a 50 minute planning period, and a big smile ... on a starting salary that qualifies my family for food stamps in many states... Is that all?

And you want and expect me to do all of this ... *WITHOUT PRAYING??*

"For This Reason I Came." (3)

"BY WHOSE AUTHORITY?"

Mark 12:1-2

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Parables from our Lord were never innocent stories nor accidental innuendoes.
- B. His disciples asked Him about teaching in parables. Mark 4:11-12

I. THE SETTING OF THE PARABLE IN THE LIFE OF JESUS

- A. The Life and Purpose of Jesus is set forth in this teaching. Zech 9
- B. In Mark, this parable comes within a carefully constructed sequence of challenges by various representatives of groups who opposed Jesus.
- C. Sadducees who rejected belief in resurrection, came to ridicule with questions.
- D. Absentee landlords owned much of Israel's agricultural land.

II. WHAT THE PARABLE MEANT TO THOSE FIRST CENTURY JEWS

- A. The leaders were in no doubt as to the meaning of the parable.
- B. This parable of Jesus poignantly turned the situation around and gave them a very uncomfortable picture.
- C. Their rejection of Jesus is the great tragedy of the New Testament. Rom 9:1-5
- D. This is not anti-Semitism in the New Testament. It is instead a lament and recognition of God's sovereign judgments.

III. WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR US TODAY?

- A. God still has a people and we are now His vineyard. He is the Owner!
 1. We don't have rank for longevity, or amount of contributions submitted, or any titles we may wear.
 2. Our service to God is not finally a question of ***OUR* wants or likes or dislikes!**
- B. The parable speaks to us about final opportunity.

CONCLUSION:

- A. We, like those Jews in the first century, are faced with a gracious crisis.
- B. GOD has sent His SON for the tribute [YOU AND ME] that belongs to Him!
- C. Are we going to withhold ourselves from God?

