



January 9, 2005

God & The Human Condition

There are many reasons why people will not listen to God and the Gospel. One of those reasons has to do with the nature of the human condition. Job remarked, ***“Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.”*** (Job 14.1). No one lives a problem free life. Some reject the idea of God based on the cares and concerns of this life. This has been a problem for humans throughout the scriptural record gives us a perspective on life and what is truly important. When Moses went to the children of Israel and began to work of leading them out of bondage, as God instructed him. He was initially met with a positive reaction. ***“And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.”*** (Ex 4.31). Moses then appeared before Pharaoh and delivered God’s message. The result was the Pharaoh hardened his heart and increased the burden of the Israelites by denying them straw to make brick (Ex 5.7-9). The positive outlook of the Israelites was reversed under these events and stopped listening to what Moses had to tell them. ***“And Moses spake so unto the children of Israel: but they hearkened not unto Moses for anguish of spirit, and for cruel bondage.”*** (Ex 6.9). The bondage that they had been in for over 400 years was such that they were expecting immediate deliverance. It is interesting that God works in ways that we do not understand and it was through the ensuing series of plagues that were brought on the Egyptians, the last of which claimed the lives of the firstborn of every household, set them free as God demonstrated his power. Following their departure from Egypt, it was not long until this negativity resurfaced. At the Red Sea they questioned the deliverance that God was providing and asked, ***“And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes, and, behold, the Egyptians marched after them; and they were sore afraid: and the children of Israel cried out unto the LORD. And they said unto Moses, Because there were no graves in Egypt, hast thou taken us away to die in the wilderness? wherefore hast thou dealt thus with us, to carry us forth out of Egypt?”*** (Ex 14.10-11). The anguish of spirit and the effects of the bondage that they had been under caused them to adopt an attitude of desperation, dependence and hopelessness. This carried over into many events as they left the land of Egypt and later wandered in the wilderness for forty years. The problem with this is that they had seen the power of God and they had not learned to trust in His providence. Moses later reminded them, ***“And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.”*** (Deut 29.5). On the night of His betrayal, Christ left his disciples to pray alone. Luke tells us, ***“And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow...”*** (Lk 22.45). Depression and intense sadness weakens the body, mind and the spirit. Christ gave his disciples a command at this time that would aid with this. Christ, ***“said unto them, Why sleep ye? rise and pray, lest ye enter into temptation.”*** (Lk 22.46). Trials and temptations will arise. These things will blur our view of God and His word. It is precisely at these vulnerable moments that we may reject God, or, accept false doctrine presented with an emotional appeal and the promise of better days. God will not spare us from the trials of this life. He will however give us strength to get through them, if we rely on him, and He will save us if we are faithful to him (Rev 2.10). ***“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”*** (2 Cor 10.13). God gave us the perfect example in that he did not spare his own son, but allowed Him to die for us on the cross. In our search for meaning we need to realize that God has prepared a better place for us to go and we can get there if we pray, act faithfully and refuse to give up no matter what. This is the same thing that faced the faithful of all ages in their service to God. The writer of Hebrews states of those who have gone before, ***“These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country. And truly, if they had been mindful of that country from whence they came out, they might have had opportunity to have returned. But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.”*** (Heb 11.13-16). The Devil seeks to rob us of that and he will if we let the cares of this life obscure the path that is before us.

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