



April 13, 2008

## *What's Your Take On That*

The relevance of God, the sanctity of the church and the infallible nature of the scriptures are all things that are submitted for subjective evaluation every day as people discuss the Bible and the impact that it has, or should have, on our lives. We might think that things would be different if we saw the miracles or the dead raised by Jesus while he was on Earth. When we turn to the scriptures we find that there is a depth of unbelief that lies in the human heart that will resist accepting and obeying God in the face of irrefutable evidence. When Nicodemus came to Christ his statements indicate that there was the knowledge among the religious leadership that Christ was doing the wonders that he performed by the power of God. Nicodemus stated, ***“Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.” (John 3.2).*** The “we” in this passage indicates to me that there had been discussions amongst the religious leaders and they knew who Christ was. It appears that many of the confrontations these people had with Christ were an attempt to convince themselves He was not the Messiah and they were really not fighting with God. They had to create within their minds the perspective that Christ had to have God with him but could not possibly be the son of God, the promised one that they had waited for. They devalued and attempted to demean and discredit Christ in public but were thwarted time and again. Finally they realized that the only way to achieve what they wanted was to kill Christ and thus remove the source of their problem. There was an aspect of denial here and the attempt to make it a reality. Notice how they rejected the identity of Christ in the face of the recognition by the people. ***“But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.” (Matt 21.46).*** Christ confronted them about what they should have known (Matt 21.42), and stated the consequences for their unbelief (Matt 21.43-44). Of note here is that they did not move against him at that time, not out of fear of God, but because of their fear

of the people. They had no regard for Christ in spite of the fact that notable deeds had been performed and not even they could deny that the power of God was at work through the Lord. They lacked faith, in spite of their knowledge of the scriptures. They lacked respect, in that they had no fear in challenging Christ. They had no concept of prophecy being fulfilled in their sight even as Christ quoted it and reminded them of the facts that they were actively avoiding. Is it any different today in the religious world? There are many who say that they love Jesus but know little of what he really taught or commanded. There are those who teach and preach dramatically and zealously, but fail to teach the word as it is revealed, denying essential elements of the doctrine. There are many who are convinced that they are on the road to Heaven but have no respect for the way outlined in the scriptures of how to get there. There are those who seek God, but look for a church that makes them feel good about what they are doing never stopping to compare what is taught and practiced with what the Bible says. There are many who claim to represent God and speak the word but their lives and practices fail to reflect a genuine respect for God and those things that have been recorded. Here are some things that the religious leaders of Christ's day failed to do. They failed to acknowledge the authority of God in their application of the law (Matt 23.3-4). They often made a great show of their piety as if they were serving God when in reality they were only taking care of themselves (Matt 23.5). They became proud and self righteous to the end that they were willing to kill the son of God. They lacked the fear of God who was able to judge and destroy for such disobedience. Today there are many who claim to serve God but mirror these same attitudes. What is your take on all this. Is your attitude right in the sight of God?

TLC