

Hearken And Understand

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Jesus wanted us to understand the blue print for His church and the settings of it, not only that but he also fully expected us to understand His gospel which he brought to us. But in fact, there are those that rejected it and mocked him and these are those that didn't want to hear it being preached. He prepares us and show us the simple way to reach him and you may find that human being as just man rejected him and follow what is wrong. He talked to people personally and on the other hand he used his disciples to proclaim it. The disciple after their death, they also left it to us that we may continue preaching and understanding what the Bible says.

Let us look and some passages that helps us to understand and heed what our Lord says:

“And when he had called all the people unto him, he said unto them, Hearken unto me everyone of you and understand: There is nothing from without a man, that entering into him can defile him; but the thing which come out of him, those are they that defile the man.” (Mark 7:14-15). The Pharisees were still holding the traditions of elders and they did not understand what the gospel was all about. They thought that when someone eats food without washing hands; it may defiles him. But Jesus proves them wrong when he tell them that that which come out of a man defiles but not what goes into a man. They kept worshiping God in vain because they were teaching the commandments of men, they did not want to hearken and understand what God wanted them to do. God wanted them to purge all the Moses' teachings which were the traditions of men but they did not want because they did not fully understand the gospel.

This also may happen to us when we leave the pattern of worship and the blue print which our Lord set for us. We follow the commandments of men when we bring biscuits and soda or wine in the Lord's Supper and we should remember that these are leaven. But we forget that when our Lord instituted His Supper there was unleavened bread and fruit of the vine. For those that calls themselves “Christians” while they bring small cups and break bread into small pieces and passing it to people calling it Lord's Supper. They are no different with the Pharisees and Scribes who justified themselves that they were doing the right thing but they were not and I remember brother Ellis as he was explaining of Jesus instituted His supper; he called it "unleaven" as the bible also calls it. And from these facts the apostle Paul admonished the Ephesians church to act wisely and seek God's direction in their lives. When we don't seek God in

our lives for this few years that has remain in the world we lost, but how do we seek Him? By hearken and understanding him through his word.

“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of God is.” (Eph. 5:17).

Apostle Paul is commending Timothy that from his childhood he knew holy scripture; why because he was taught and grasped it and thus understood it thoroughly. *“But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scriptures is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* (2 Tim. 3:14-17). We must continue in the things we learned from God’s people like brother Ellis who came to Africa and taught thoroughly. We must hearken and understand God’s word if we really want to go into a place which he went to prepare for us. When we understand it, we are corrected and instruct us in righteousness.

The Pharisee and Scribes were stubborn and trouble making people they thought to be right in anything they were doing; and mostly we do wrong when we justify ourselves that we right. Jesus pointed out our misunderstanding of the scriptures is because we are ignorant of them. We make effort in doing other things in appropriate way but we forget or rather don’t want to read and study God’s word in a good way, we are not serious with it. Even today there are “Christians” that do wrong when they implement the use of instrumental music and speaking in tongue in the their congregations. *“Jesus answered and said to them, ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”* (Matt. 22:29-30). As I said above, when we do things our way and not God’s way then we come into trouble; that is worshiping God in vain. *“But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. And he called the multitude, and said to unto them, hear, and understand.”* (Matt. 15:9-10). A true Christian must teach the doctrine as commanded in the holy book (Bible), and we must hear and understand him through His word. A servant must hear what his master says or but what if he does what he has not been told? He err and deserves punishment. And that is what God is going to do for us if we does not teach people to follow what He said in the Bible and do them. We came a cross some group of people in the market place and as we tried talking to them about the good news some of them rejected us, saying “we are tired with you people” but patiently brother Caleb told three of them to sit if will and we studied with them. Through God’s power four

people from this group were immersed into water of baptism. I remember one occasion after Ellis taught a lesson in Arusha, two responded to the gospel and wanted to be baptized and we hired a taxi that took us to the river, when we got to the river there were not much water and we dig and removed soil and immersed them. Brethren, we must do what God is commanding us to do. And what we have been told is to teach people out there to know Jesus but again not all of the will accept it some will reject it. Our obligation is to tell them. *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”* (Matt. 7:13-14). Not everyone will accept what we teach, but we must preach it even if they will reject these are those that follow wide gate. Jesus tells us why we misunderstand his word. *“For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at anytime they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”* (Matt. 13: 15).

Need to be like the noble Bereans; *“These were noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. Therefore many of them believed; also of honorable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.”* (Acts 17:11-12). We must receive the word with the readiness of mind, and search the scriptures daily but not receiving any wind of teaching that blows on our way. We must test them that claim to teach good news. The bible tells us to test them and challenge those that come to us but they know nothing. I’m doing a thorough study of the gospel of John and it will be out recently Lord willing.

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