

North Christian Church -

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5/26/16 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 91

Trust In the Process

When we follow Jesus Christ with a sincere heart, He will reveal all things to us at the proper time.

1Pe 1:7

so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

"proof of your faith"

Requires testing (e.g., "by fire"). What is faith untested??? Faith reveals its value WHEN tested (Heb 11:6a "And without faith it is impossible to please Him.").

CONTEXT IS KEY!!!

Lk 5:1-11

- The fishermen had given up catching fish
- Jesus got into the boat with a "crowd" watching Him
- Jesus performed a miracle, by faith
- Peter is stricken with shame in the God-Man's presence

The Humble, Repentant Heart

If we truly fear God, we are overwhelmed by our own sinfulness. This is the precursor to repentance that leads to salvation. Nowhere in scripture is it suggested that believers lose this sense of fear and repentance.

The Humble, Repentant Heart

Peter had faith (Lk 5:1-11), and the "proof of that faith" (1Pe 1:7) is worth much more than anything he hauled into the boat that day! His faith was increased, as were others', and afterwards, he "left everything and followed [Jesus]."

Lk 5:1-11 with 1Pe 1:7

Jesus never stopped strengthening the faith of His disciples. Likewise, He never stops strengthening our faith, in time. Faith does the job of overcoming our fears (fruit of the flesh) so that our inherent desire to obey (fruit of the new creature)

may perform unrestrictedly in/through us. The Spirit is our "Helper" in this (Jn 14).

Expounding Upon 1Pe 1:7

Among the greatest fruit for a true believer is their eternal security ("I lost not one" - Jn 18:9). That sense of security, knowing that you've been saved is among the most basic fruit in your soul; and it IS fruit, because it is a gift given by God to you, and it has become part of who you are (e.g. the new creature is assured of its destiny, and the Spirit confirms it! - 1Jn 3:24; 4:13)..

Distinctions

There are those who actually walk by faith, and those who have an "incomplete" faith that says that "walking by faith" is the right way to walk. It's one thing to mentally assent to something, it's another to live it. "The righteous man shall live by faith" (Ro 1:17).

Your Life Has Context

If you try to take a general statement about fruit-bearing trees and forcibly draw a conclusion about a whole person (e.g., yourself), OUT of context, you will end up confused.

Life Has Context

Without context, parables are especially susceptible to interpretation errors. For example, does "You will know them by their fruit" (Mt 7:20) mean that we are able to discern everyone's salvation by merely looking at their outward fruit? (ans: NO!!!)

Reading Parables

Imposing contemporary culture upon a parable will inevitably result in errant conclusions. Speculation is always bad when it is taken as theology. If you don't "get it", you've missed it. If it's not plainly apparent, do NOT take it upon yourself to construct something that isn't there!!!

My Life Has Context

- Green is my favorite color
- Scientifically, green is proven to be relaxing
- I have painted my home office green

Speculation

Do you have the right to say that since I like green, that I must also like blue and yellow simply because green is their derivative??? No, you don't, but a sophomore will do just that - they will speculate that they know more than they do. Do not be wise in your own estimation" (Ro 12:16).

Speculation

Some people simply aren't satisfied with what they are given, so they speculate, sometimes egregiously. And the more they do that, the further from the truth about someone/something they get.

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Avoiding Speculation Errors

The parables haven't changed in 2,000 years. However, our culture and our "life contexts" have changed dramatically. Therefore, in order to "find" the meaning of a parable, we must avoid imposing contemporary ideologies on them in favor of understanding the context in which they were written (time, place, person, culture, etc.).

Parables

If a parable doesn't allow for certain specifics, then we can't impose them, even though we desire to draw certain conclusions. Parables aren't meant to be dissected ad nauseam; they are meant to be consumed whole so a general rule or theme may be understood.

Parables

Man has a tendency to impose his own restrictions on the parables in the Bible. Parables are predominantly meant to drive a single point or two home. They are NOT meant to be plucked apart and forced to shed light on things outside of their primary scope of revelation.

The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah

by Alfred Edersheim