



EXPERIENCING THE ABUNDANT LIFE: JOHN 2

“A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP”

JOHN 2: 23-25

IN OUR STUDY OF THIS SAME PASSAGE LAST WEEK, WE SAW THAT JESUS DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO THOSE WHO DO NOT ADMIT THAT THEY ARE SINNERS IN NEED OF HIM. THEY JUST MERELY HAD SOME TYPE OF INTEREST IN HIM. THAT KIND OF BELIEF IS ALWAYS INCOMPLETE. JESUS WILL NOT RECEIVE PEOPLE WHO ARE SIMPLY INTERESTED IN HIM IN GENERAL, OR INTERESTED IN CHRISTIANITY IN GENERAL.

SO FAR WE HAVE LOOKED AT THIS INCIDENT AT JERUSALEM ONLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF OUR ATTITUDE, BUT THE REALLY IMPORTANT THING THAT IS TAUGHT HER IS HER ATTITUDE.

SALVATION IS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF

WHEN WE DO NOT LOOK ON SALVATION AS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST, THEN THERE ARE CERTAIN DANGERS ASSOCIATED WITH THAT KIND OF THINKING AND BELIEF. HERE ARE A FEW:

1. ONE OF THE GREATEST DANGERS IS TO LOOK UPON SALVATION AS MERELY THE ACCEPTANCE OF A CREED OR A HOLDING TO CORRECT TEACHING.
2. A SECOND DANGER IS WHEN WE THINK OF SALVATION IN AN IMPERSONAL MANNER.
3. A THIRD DANGER IS THINKING OF SALVATION AS SOMETHING WHICH IS ONE-SIDED, WITH THE ACTIVITY ENTIRELY ON OUR SIDE.

NO OTHER RELIGION IN THE WORLD CAN SAY THAT IT OFFERS A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ITS GOD, EXCEPT CHRISTIANITY. THAT IS WHY IT IS UNIQUE AND SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS.

THE ESSENCE OF SALVATION IS THAT IT IS A TWO-SIDED PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST AND THE BELIEVER

WE CANNOT DECIDE TO TAKE SALVATION OR ANY PART WHENEVER WE LIKE. HERE ARE PEOPLE WHO, HAVING SEEN THE MIRACLES, BELIEVE IN HIM AND APPROACH HIM. HOWEVER, HE DOES NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO THEM BECAUSE HE KNOWS WHAT IS REALLY IN THEIR HEARTS.

REMEMBER THIS: IT IS NOT OUR DECISION FOR CHRIST THAT SAVES US; IT IS HE WHO SAVES US WHEN HE COMMITS HIMSELF TO US! IF IT WERE OUR DECISION WHICH SAVED US, THEN WE WOULD GET THE CREDIT FOR SALVATION. THIS PASSAGE IS CLEARLY TEACHING US THAT IT IS NOT OUR ACTIVITY OR DECISION TO BE SAVED WHICH, IN FACT, SAVES US; RATHER, IT IS THE COMMITMENT OF JESUS TO US WHICH SAVES US.

APPLICATION

1. WE WILL KNOW IN OUR HEARTS.
 2. WE WILL FEEL UNWORTHY(BRINGING A DEEP SENSE OF GRATITUDE).
 3. WE WILL HAVE SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING.
 4. WE WILL HAVE A SENSE OF REST AND PEACE.
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Verse for the week: “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”(Rom. 6:23).

Thought for the week: “Salvation is free but being a Christian is costly.”