

**Adam's Rib**

In Bible Class, they were teaching how God created everything including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny what is the matter?" He responded, "I have a pain in my side, I think I'm going to have a wife."

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless

Silly? Yes. Funny? At least I thought so and decided to share.



**March 6, 2011**

**Have I Become Your Enemy?  
Jim Stauffer**

When Paul is reminding the Galatians of their commitment to the Lord and correcting them for turning back to the old law, he raises this question in Gal. 4:16. This has always been and always will be one of the most difficult things about preaching and teaching the gospel.

Jesus faced this problem in chapter 6 of the gospel of John when many of His disciples said, "This is a hard saying; who can hear it." (verse 60) Verse 66 tells us many walked no more with Him after that.

The dilemma we face is that if we tell the truth to people who are lost it will cause them to make a very difficult decision. They may decide to have no more to do with us and the gospel. That hurts personally but the alternative is worse for both of us. If we compromise the truth to avoid any offense we do not provide them with what they need. This denies them the real solution to their problem and leaves us guilty of mishandling the truth.

Jesus told us there would be days like this. In Matthew 10:34-39 He indicated there would be difficult choices for the lost to make. They may have family connections to a religion that is in conflict with Bible teaching. If they decide to reject the gospel it will be a case of them "finding their life rather than losing it." (Matt. 10:39; 16:25)

We cannot be deterred by such responses as we know the answer to Paul's question. We have not become their enemy by telling them the truth. We have continued our friendship with God, carrying His message to any and all who will hear.

After all, Jesus, the Son of God was rejected by men. Some called Him a blasphemer because he admitted to His Sonship. Others turned from following when

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**MEETING TIMES**  
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM  
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM  
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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He quit feeding them miraculously. He healed and performed many miracles to provide evidence of His relationship with God and yet He was rejected and slain on the cross.

Let us not have a pity party for ourselves when we have to "suffer" when people reject the truth of the gospel for reasons known only to themselves and God.

It is sad but true that "each one of us shall give an account of himself to God." (Rom. 14:12)

Let us make sure that the account we give of ourselves is one that reflects our love for the truth and our desire to make it available to the lost.

### **The Power of Simplicity**

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and "to the point" teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing forth its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained was simple in nature. "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul... spoke to them ..." (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest could worship, for all that was required of a material nature was a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent could worship, for God was listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There were no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There were no inter-church organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter. Why this simplicity? "That no flesh should glory in His presence" (1 Corinthians 1:29). The complex systems which men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the

worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

Someone has said: "How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!" What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that's simple. - by Bill Hall

### **God Does Not Forget His Own**

Facing difficult and uncertain times, God's people felt that He had possibly abandoned them . . . "But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, and the Lord has forgotten me." (Isaiah 49:14)

But God offered them the positive assurance that they so desperately needed . . . "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands . . ." vs. 15-16)

He assured them that it would be more likely for a woman to forget her own child than for Him to forget His people. Just as we sometimes write important reminders on the palm of our hand, even so the Father had them written on His hand. Although their circumstances seemed bleak, God had not forgotten them.

In our own lives we sometimes face a combination of trials and troubles that can raise doubt and uncertainty. At such times we must also remember God's promises . . . "He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What shall man do to me?'" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

We have "great and precious promises" from the Creator of the entire universe (2 Peter 1:4). He loves us and cares for us, and He desires all good things for us (Jeremiah 29:11). It should surely comfort us to know that our Heavenly Father has our names written on His hand. "What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?" (Romans 8:31)

**by Greg Gwin**