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**-LESSON IN HUMILITY-**

"Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 18:3.

It seems that the uppermost thot in the minds of the disciples was how great each would be in the kingdom of heaven. They had quarreled about it among themselves. The mother of two of them had interened for them, asking the Lord to give them the highest positions in His kingdom. Just before the verse above, they had come to Him asking who should be greatest in the kingdom.

The first word that meets the eye in His reply is CONVERTED. He means that they are going to have to change their minds about a lot of things. They are going to have to change their way of thinking. The kingdom is not a place for them to be exalted, but it is to be a place of service. Each one should be saying, "What can I do" instead of "How big am I going to be."

Probably this event took place in the home of Peter. The child well may have been Marcus (1 Pet. 5:13). If so, he could have something to remember for the rest of his life. But the point was, the disciples must become as this little child if they are to enter the kingdom.

A child is humble and teachable. He can be shown things. He will accept facts without argument. He can be led. So it must be with those who are going to be of any use to the Lord in His kingdom. This is a solemn warning. If they do not heed they could suffer great loss.

All this is in reference to the kingdom and has nothing to do with the church. But the principle remains the same. We read in Phil. 2:5 and on, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who...made Himself of no reputation...took upon Himself the form of a servant...humbled Himself." This is for us.

As long as one is engaged in seeking high position and the praise of men, he cannot be of much service and use to the Lord. Let us mark some of these passages and think on them.

**-FELIX TREMBLED-**

"And as he (Paul) reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled..." Acts 24:25.

What was this judgment to come, or as the Interlinear reads "about to be"? Is there anything here about resurrection and a judgment of the dead? There is nothing of the kind. This refers to the judgment of the living nations foretold in Matt. 25:31, 32 which reads, "When the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory: and before Him shall be gathered all nations." This is at least a thousand years before the judgment of the dead at the great white throne.

The basis of judgment for the nations is how they have treated Christ's brethren, the Jews. Felix was not only a Roman governor over a Jewish province, but he had married a Jewess. So he would be judged on how he had treated his subjects and also his wife. It is quite evident that he had not been ruling in righteousness, temperance with a view of the judgment about to be. So he trembled.

But when was this judgment to be? When we go back to Dan. 9:24 we read of 70 weeks of years which are determined upon Israel AND THE HOLY CITY. This time dates from the dedication of the temple after the return from Babylon. That would be 405 B C. The 70 weeks would be 490 years. It takes little ability to figure that this would end in 85 A D. At the end the king is anointed and takes up His rule. This fits right in with Matt. 25. Read both of the accounts.

That is near enough that Felix could have lived up to that time and could have seen the return of the Lord and could have been in the judgment of the nations.

But Felix is dead. He never came into that judgment and never will. It is not likely that he could have a resurrection, if he did believe, that would be early enough. Why did not all this happen? The answer is Acts 28:28.

**-HOPE-**

1. **EVERLASTING LIFE.** Up to the call of Abraham from Ur, the hope of those who believed in God was to be resurrected when "the heavens be no more." This was an earthly hope, the believer being able to see his Redeemer on the earth. Job 14:12 and 19:25. From the time of Abraham till now this has still been the hope of such as receive the gift of eternal life. The various Gentiles with whom the Lord dealt during His ministry have this same hope. The doors of the kingdom were not open to them. It was the same with the dying malefactor on Calvary. He could not enter the kingdom, but could have paradise (the new earth). The same hope is open to all today who will believe John's gospel.

2. **THE KINGDOM.** With the call of Abraham was the call of a nation and the beginning of a new hope for such as are of Israel, that is, descendents of Jacob. This hope is the kingdom of heaven where Christ will reign on David's throne. This hope was not open to Gentiles until Peter opened the doors of the kingdom to them in the house of Cornelius. There will be Gentiles among the nations when the Lord comes who will also be able to enter. Many of them will sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. Matt. 8:11, 12. Some of the faithful of true Israel will have an additional hope. That will be the New Jerusalem when it comes down from heaven. This city is not mentioned in the OT but Heb. 11 tells us that some of the OT saints knew about it and looked for it.

3. **THE CHURCH WHICH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST.** When the kingdom was closed to all at Acts 28:28 a new dispensation was revealed to Paul which he was to preach to all men everywhere. For the first time the hope of heaven itself was offered to man. No longer does God speak of earthly blessings, but now offers all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies in Christ. Eph. 1:3. This gospel has one thing in common with the gospel of John. It is that all these things are obtained without works of any kind.

**- THE GODHEAD -**

According to Rom. 1, man can see a revelation of God in the things which God made. He is without excuse.

In all that is made what can man see concerning God? The first things he notices is that with very few exceptions the elements can be found in 3 different states or manifestations. These 3 states are; gas, liquid, and solid.

God in His essence is invisible. He cannot be seen. This, in a crude way, is parallel with the gaseous state of elements. If pure, they are invisible.

Then we have the liquid state of most elements. The Holy Spirit is likened to oil and is spoken of as being poured out. This is a manifestation of God. He dwells in the believer in this state.

We are acquainted with many elements in their solid form. Christ was God manifest in flesh. 1 Tim.3:16. John declared that the apostles had seen, looked upon, and handled the Word of life, God manifest in flesh. 1 Jno. 1:1. This was something material and tangible which they could apprehend with the senses.

By a careful reading and study of Jno. 14:17 you will see that the Holy Spirit is none other than Christ Himself. God in His manifestation as Christ dwells in the believer by the Spirit.

It is hard to understand the complete unity of the Godhead, but maybe we can put it in another way. It is possible for the same person to be the president, secretary, and treasurer of the same organization. Three offices, but only one person. So it is with the Godhead. God as the Son is lower than God as the Father. Yet they are one. So there is only one mind or will, not three. When God was manifested as the Son, He was determined to carry out the things which he had planned as the Father. Satan could not change that course, tho he tried it often.

Since God in His essence cannot be seen, then the only contact man can have with Him is thru His manifestation of Himself as the Son (LOGOS, expression). That is why He claimed to be the only true and living way to the Father.

## -STUDIES IN JOHN- 27-

1. What was the place being prepared for the disciples? Rev. 21:2,14.
2. How do we know that this is the place being prepared? Rev. 21:14.
3. Is this prepared place to be in heaven or on earth?
4. When He receives them unto Himself, will that be in heaven or here on the earth? Rev. 21:3,23.
5. What is the only way to the Father?
6. Who have the right or authority to call Him Father? John 1:12.
7. How had they known and seen the Father? 1 Tim. 3:16. Isa. 9:6.
8. What was Philip's question?
9. How does the Lord's answer fit in with Isa. 9:6?
10. Would verses 10 and 11 lead one to conclude that Christ and the Father are one and the same person?
11. Was verse 12 true of the apostles?
12. Are verses 13 and 14 truth for today?
13. How could the disciples show their love for the Lord?
14. Does the word ANOTHER in verse 16 indicate that they might already have a comforter?
15. Who was the Spirit of truth Whom the world could not receive at that time?
16. Where was He dwelling?
17. Where would He dwell later?
18. Who is the Spirit of truth today?
19. Does verse 18 mean that Christ will return to them as the Holy Spirit or does it refer to His second coming?
20. Does the world see Christ today?
21. What relationship does verse 20 give them to the Father?
22. What promise is made to them that love Him?
23. How would you answer the question of Judas?
24. How were the disciples going to be able to remember all the things they were taught? 26
25. What was He going to leave with them?
26. Does the world know peace?
27. How should they feel about His leaving? 28
28. Why did the Lord tell them so many things of the future?

DEAR YOUNG FOLKS: Here it is, school time again. Some of you may be taking Eng. Lit. You will wonder at the language as it was a few centuries ago. I have here a little sample of it and also a lesson from it.

Myles Coverdale was born in Eng. back in 1488. That was some time before our AV Bible came out (1611). He was a good student of the Word and he recognized a principle which is almost unknown in Christendom today. It is a principle of study that would banish a lot of superstition and tradition which enslave so many today and which rob them of peace and assurance. Now I am going to give you a big word, but it expresses so well the great sin of the professing church. It is **ULTRA-TRADITIONALISM**. You will find it wherever men worship the church instead of the Christ. You will find it where listen to the teaching and creeds of men instead of the Bible. Ultra-traditionalism is a very common thing in this age.

But Myles Coverdale said;

"It shall greatly helpe ye to understande Scripture, if thou mark not only what is spoken, or wrytten, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, considering what goeth before, and what followeth."

That is just about the best antidote to Ultra-traditionalism I have ever found. It might be well that you copy this bit in a note book or in your Bible for reference. If you will but put this principle into practice, you will find little difficulty in finding what is truth for today. Some of the older folks who might be reading this over your shoulder might get some help too. People are really old when they cease to learn.

Sincerely in HIM, Oscar M. Baker.

**- THE EDITOR'S DESK -**

**SO GLAD** that you cannot see the desk right now. It gets in a mess when your editor works outside a while.

**TRUTH FOR TODAY** is published each month (usually rather late). It is free. Would like to increase the circulation about 100%. You can help with this. Just send in lists of names and addresses of those who might be interested. You have friends, relatives and neighbors who may be looking for this very kind of material.

**RECENT VISITORS;** Daniel Hanes of Bremen, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph H. Smith of Joliet, Ill.

**OLD COPIES** of TFT available back to #39. Some of our new friends may wish to have some of these. They are free. Ask for them.

**FARM ACTIVITIES;** Put out 11 acres of alfalfa and other legumes and grasses. Over 3 weeks of hot dry weather has not given the little seeds a chance to start. Maybe the birds have picked them all up by now. Little Liz is OK now. Her feet are well. We are feeding hay now as the pastures have all drie up. The ditch is dry, so the well has extra duty to furnish all the water for the cows as well as us. The storm earlier in the summer ruined several trees in the woods. Now if we can find time to cut wood, we may not have to buy much coal next winter. While writing this it is 98 in the shade; which reminds me that I do not have a shovel for the snow which will be coming some of these days.

**NOTICE;** as you read the article on page 1, you will see that Paul did not make any provision for an extended kingdom prior to the coming of the Lord and the Millennium. Such a period was unknown to the Lord, the 12, and to Paul. In the books of the NT you will find a wealth of passages which presuppose the near advent and the judgment of the nations. Try tabulating these. You will be surprised.

**TAPE RECORDINGS;** You will have to be patient a little longer about these. Have been painting the barn lately and just cannot find time for study. This painting should have been done 10 years

ago. Mrs. Baker is helping with it. Let us know the speed of your recorder, 7.5 or 3.75 ips, and whether single or double track. These are free, but would like to have them returned when you are finished with them.

**THANK:** To those who enclose a stamp with their letters; To those who notify us when they change address; To those who have sent us lists of names and addresses; To those who continue to pray for us and the ministry of TFT; and to those who write us so many nice letters.

**BOOKS:** See list in previous issue and your price list and order blank for the Berean Publications. Have the following used books by Sir Robert Anderson; 3 copies of The Silence of God at \$2 and \$2.25; 2 copies of The Gospel and its Ministry at \$1.50 and \$2.00; 5 copies of The Bible and Modern Criticism at \$2, \$2.50 and \$2.75; 1 copy of Human Destiny at \$2.

**COMPANION BIBLES;** Buckram binding \$12. Quarter leather binding for hard usage \$16. Full leather binding \$24. This corrects last month's list. Postage is included in the prices.

**WEEKLY BIBLE CLASS** at our home each Tue. nite at 7:30. You are welcome.

Do you get the magazines; The Babblers, The Volume of the Book, and The Opened Book? They are free, but am sure they would appreciate help. Can take orders.

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