



Pretentious Flair

Today I heard a message concerning the rich young ruler of Luke 18:18-30. When I got in I looked also at parallel accounts in Matthew 19:16-30 and Mark 10:17-31. I determined to use the text of Mark 10:17-31 as the best illustration of this message. The preacher today emphasized the fact that this rich young ruler had one thing that he was unwilling to part with. It was the very thing that was impeding his path to an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. He asked each of us to search ourselves for that one thing which stands in the way of our relationship with Christ.

As I reflected on this text and message, I began to see it on the backdrop of a conversation I was engaged in earlier. I attempted to point to a couple of sections in scripture that might assist this brother in understanding how I deal with certain situations. He began to try and label my actions as of man. He refused to acknowledge or talk about the scripture. Once he saw that I would consistently go back to scripture, it became clear that he would not accept that Gods word has not changed nor does it disagree with itself in any point. He then decided to question why my praise is different from others.

As our conversation progressed another person that had been standing by came up and said there is a famine going on. I agreed. He asked what kind of famine? I replied there is a famine of the word of God. He directed me to scripture in the book of Amos.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:" **Amos 8:11**

It confirmed the famine for God's word. That conversation coupled with this morning's message is what led me to Mark 10:17-31 and the following revelation of God's word.

Sadly, many of those attending church today, many of those professing relationships with God are much like this rich young ruler. We look at that which we do having a show of righteousness and deceive ourselves into believing that we are right with God. We attend Sunday Service, go to bible study, pray and give of our finances. Some of us have good jobs/professions, a nice car or cars or a nice home. We may be active politically or civically. We believe that those things are the determinants of whether or not we are saved. We even run to the alter dancing, singing and uttering sounds void of meaning in an attempt to declare to all present that we are children of God. I am sorry to say that with many this pretentious flair is an insidious

"Once he saw that I would consistently go back to scripture, it became clear that he would not accept that Gods word had not changed..."

deception from the devil that blinds some from seeing the truth, which is in your heart.

"Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, this people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me..."
Matthew 15:7-9

I am continually grieved in spirit when I see so many of the "brethren" that are so blinded by worldly ideations and traditions that they are unable to hear the word of God.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
John 13:35

Check the scripture

1. *Matthew 15:7-9*
2. *Mark 10:17*
3. *Matthew 22:37-39*

Jesus displayed His love for men by His willingness to die for us. Jesus asked this young man to display his love by giving his material wealth to the poor. Then after such a grand pretentious entrance,

"And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" **Mark 10:17**

This rich young ruler was given an opportunity to take his eyes off of exterior appearances and allow us a chance to peek into his heart. The scripture says, "he went away grieved." He was so blinded by getting, that he could not hear the biblical directive stated. In order to accept the free gift of a vertical relationship with God and then put that relationship on display in a horizontal relationship with man.

"Jesus said unto him, thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind... thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."
Matthew 22:37-39

Jesus loves us so much that He left us examples of how we can show the world our love of God in Matthew 25:31-46 (we must serve those that are weak and castaway) and in Matthew 28:19-20 (we must be witnesses to what God has done in our lives). Instead, to many with pretentious flair within the local congregation are so blinded that they do not know that we attend service to be encouraged Hebrews 10:25 and to be equipped Ephesians 4:22-12 that we are able to horizontally extend our selves into dying world as light in darkness

If no one has told you yet today, let me be the first to say that I love you all and you can't do a thing about.

Serving Christ

Andre' L. McGuire

Ministry Needs

Praise God:

I believe as God said, He will supply our need according to His riches in glory. That you might be made aware of those present needs please find listed below the needs of ALM's Ministry International, Inc. as we know them.

It is my intention to fulfill the ministry God has placed in my heart. I am prayerful that God would touch those whom He has anointed to be a blessing or participant in this ministry. I have nearly completed the business plan inclusive of a blueprint of the facility wherein the halfway house would be located. If God has so ordained it would be a blessing to receive your assistance in the development of this ministry. Please contact us in the event God has led you to assist and/or forward this to any which you believe may through prayer be interested in assisting in the following areas:

- Prayer
- Secure 501 C3
- Assist in completion of business plan
 - a. Cost Analysis
 - b. Secure Financing and/or Grant Writer
 - c. Staff Development
- Web Site Development (concept provided)
- Typeset manuscripts and/or secure publisher or agent for manuscripts
- Secure copyright of manuscript(s)
- Prayer

I do thank you for having taken the time to review this information. I pray that God will open your heart to being a blessing to his kingdom by assisting in the development of this ministry.

Donations

The word of God admonishes us to owe no man anything except love. Therefore, we have made it possible for our visiting friends to assist us in maintaining our facility and our web presence by sowing seed into this ministry. All finances received are tax deductible and will be used for general ministry support if it is not specifically designated.

We thank you in advance for your cheerful gift in support of ALM's Ministries, International, Inc.