

A Clouded View

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The disciples asked Jesus if He was going to restore physical and governmental power to them over Rome. Jesus said to them, “No –Not the way you think.” This answer remains today to us as Christians. We are always looking for something to save us, prosper us, heal us beyond simple adherence and obedience to Father’s principles of heart. If I can just find the right combination of Scripture, prayers, and rituals I can then turn the keys to divine health, prosperity, and power. Jesus told Peter that He would receive the keys to the Kingdom of God. He said, seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you. The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink but righteousness, peace, and joy. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, gentleness, kindness, meekness, temperance, above these there is no law.

We then find the disciples standing and gazing into the clouds. They looked up until the clouds covered their view of Jesus. Today, too many issues, compromise, and a lack of understanding have caused the church to lose focus on the real issue.

The angel said, “Why do you here looking up?” They responded, “Because He just promised something to us then disappeared.”

1. He promised power and they’re looking up for it when it was already among them.
2. We tend to weigh expectation of our experiences of what He did last and we end up missing what He is doing now. (Luke 10:38-42)
3. Martha lost sight due to her business of the work and thus lost her focus on the Master being in her presence.

When we get distracted we get people conscious. Then just as Martha, when we are corrected we get offended. The church has gotten concerned with comparisons, statistics, measuring success by quantitative means and how big our buildings are. When God looks down and sees large buildings full of people and hearts full of dung.

I got saved for Christ not because of the works of the church. I did not give my soul to a program but to my Savior. It is no wonder people are not getting saved today. They are joining churches but they are not getting saved. The culture is the judge of that.

Fayetteville is in one of the most religious areas of our state yet the people in the communities are outraged that a woman of Biblical principle would want to get the perverted filth out of the elementary school libraries.

The church has become co-personality dependent. Discipleship should make the disciple dependant on Christ not church rehab program.

Your neighbor seeing everything going peachy-keen in your life will not make them want to know Christ. But your neighbor seeing you go through the same trials, paying the same gas prices yet seeing a different heart response, a different worldview, still seeing Jesus glorified in your heart, life, mouth, actions is what will make them want, desire, hunger, thirst, and long to know your Jesus. This is real faith. Faith is not the car you drive or the clothes you wear. Faith is when your whole world is crumbling, you’ve lost everything, and everything is going wrong as with Job and you can praise the Father anyway, live content, and count it all joy and continue to give glory to the Father.

(2 Kings 6:1-6) Just as the axe head with Elisha. They became so engulfed with the growth and building that when hardship came they were in fear. Where did you lose your focus on Jesus? Where did you get offended at God? Go back there and that is where you will find Him but you will find that He is closer than you think. He will be found where you are at now as well.

You will be as close to Jesus as you choose to be or as close as you want to be. He sets no limitation as to how close He wants to get to you. Instead, we set the limitations and restrictions. Too often, we lose focus, stray from His presence and His ways, and try to get back through a new movement, human effort, legalism, or religious practice. When it simply takes a broken and contrite heart.