

God's Will Our Salvation (150)

Read = Matthew 16 v 20-23

Intro - Now that the Disciples know who Jesus is directly (The Christ the Son of the living God)He asks them to keep it quiet v 20. He does so because of the Jewish misunderstanding of the Messiah as a political military leader who would free them from the Romans and be a saviour to Jews only. Aspects of this will be true at his 2nd advent when He comes in power with the hosts of heaven, but NOT at His 1st advent. He come to live and suffer and die and be resurrected for sinners and that the Jews did not understand.

So Christ tells them to tell no man of it because He does not want them trying to make Him king again.

so

Who He is

The Christ the Son of the living God, but tell no man off it yet then we see 3 points.

1. His Work v21

2. Saying No to God's plan v22

3. Is Satan's Work v23

1. His Work v21

Note it says *'from that time forth He began to show (tell) His disciples His sufferings'*

The Lord had only hinted at his death before in the gospels to the disciples, eg *'destroy this temple and I will raise it in 3 days'...If the Son of man be lifted up...eating his flesh and drinking his blood'* But it only from this time forth He begins to tell them plainly.

This is because , until you know who Jesus really is, you are not ready to understand His work (what He does) properly !

Listen to

MH

' Christ reveals His mind to His people gradually and lets in light as they can bear it, and are fit to receive it. From that time, when they had made that full confession of Christ, that He was the Son of God, then He began to show them this. When He found them knowing in one truth, then He taught them another'
(p234)

What we have here is a logical sensible form of teaching, at a level people can understand and cope with, a consideration of where His hearers are and a tailoring of the information in small bits at their level so they can understand.

Oh that all teachers had this ability? That they had an understanding of their students level and taught so as to be understood, not as they say feeding giraffes instead of sheep and bambozilling them with big words to show off !

4 things

1. Where?

Jerusalem The place where sacrifices are offered so the ultimate sacrifice , the fulfilment of all sacrifices must be offered there

2. What He must do?

Suffer at the hands of 3 types of people Elders Chief Priests and Scribes, Rulers secular and religious rulers and scripture experts.

3. Extent?

Die be put to death, He is now telling them that He the Messiah is going to die !

4. Good news?

Resurrection and be raised again the 3rd day.

What are all these things put together?

The Work of Redemption !

The place Jerusalem, the suffering, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Notice that Jesus says He MUST do these thing

a Present indicative a statement of fact '*it is necessary, it needs be*'

When the followers of Jesus make great confession of Him, the next thing they need to understand is the necessity of the atonement/ redemption, of the reason why Christ had to die.

This had to happen because it was God's plan as revealed in God's Word.

That bring me to our next point

2. Saying No to God's plan v 22 read

Peter began to rebuke Him saying

This will not happen.

'This shall not be unto thee'

From the heights of great confession that this is the Messiah the Son of God and God the Son...

To the foolish depths of telling God the Son ' NO you are wrong ! '

Big boisterous Peter opens His mouth and puts both feet in it !

Why? great praise can lead to us act above our place or office and say stupid things.

Peter was saying No to Gods plan which He had purposed in eternity past !

He didn't even know it

It is so easy for even Christians to unknowingly contradict or say NO to Gods plan.

Here Peter was actually saying No or attempting to hinder God's plan of redemption !

Which brings me to the 3rd point to say no to God's plan is=

3. Is Satan's Work v23 read

We see here the Lord saying 3 shocking things to Peter even although He deserved them.

1.Satan.

'get thou behind me Satan'

Now this of course does not mean that Peter had transformed in to the devil like a shape shifter, that all of a sudden Satan had taken Peters place. No No.

It's just that in saying no to God's plan which is Christ's work of redemption , in saying these words and opposing god's plan Peter is doing the work of Satan , he is speaking Satan's words !

It is possible that a good man , a preacher and a saint, can in enthusiasm unknowingly do Satan's work !

2.Offence to Christ

Jesus say's that Satan or Satan's words are an offence to Him.

M H 'Christ's displeasure against Peter... We do not read of anything said or done by His disciples, at any time, that He resented as much as this, though they often offended'

(p236)

To oppose the work of redemption is very serious and offensive to Christ.

3.Savour not God's work but man's ways

Satan loves saviour tastes enjoys not God's ways nor God's plans but love mans ways , the worlds way of thinking.

God has a plan to redeem sinners and Satan hates it and opposes it and speaks against it.

Note in this verse we learn

MH 'It is the subtlety of Satan, to send temptations to us by the unsuspecting hands of our best and dearest friends... Those who have their spiritual senses exercised will be aware of the voice of Satan even in a friend ... that dissuades them from their duty. we must not regard who speaks so much as what is spoken; we should learn to know Satan's voice when he speaks in a saint as well as when he speaks in a serpent'

(236)

Temptations come from the most unexpected places and people. To savour or value the things of the world and not the things of God, is Satan's mindset.

So Peter unknowingly or rashly says no to God's will and Christ's purpose in coming to earth, Redemption !

This is to be grossly offensive to Jesus and to have a Satanic worldly mindset and value system to savour worldly things and not Spiritual things.

Conclusion and Application

1. His Work v21

2. Saying No to God's plan v22

3. Is Satan's Work v23

1. We learn from Jesus Christ as teacher that we do not lay upon our hearers more than they are able to bear. Jesus taught the disciple many things over His public ministry and it is only at Caesarea Philippi after they have learned who He really is that He teaches them about His suffering and death. Christology come before understanding redemption. To see and know

who Jesus is as the God /man presceeds
understanding Why and how He died?

So we see from Jesus a logical progression in teaching
building upon present knowledge.?

We are not to give them everything whether they
understand it or not !

How long did it take you as a mature Christian to
understand say the Sovereignty of God even just over
creation?

A long time and still learning?

I think that some preachers needlessly extrapolate
great details and complicated Biblical themes when
there hearers sometimes just need the basics?

Teaching is progressive the life of Christ proves this !

Logic Book Ch 1 an argument is made up of Premises
and a conclusion.

The premises should be the proof or reasons why you
should believe the conclusion

eg p1 Road safety laws are important to help us cross the road

p2 Ignorance of them most likely will lead to you being knocked down and maybe getting killed.

Concl? All people should know these rules for their own good therefore it should be taught as a compulsory subject in schools !

Ch 1 also teaches that the conclusion to an argument is indicated by the words '*therefore, thus and so*'

Now that's the basics in chapter one but the book does not teach in ch1 the logic symbols in mathematical logic that are used in ch3.?

No no

That would be too much for a beginner?

I fear to many preachers mix in stuff from the last chapter of the book for beginners.

Jesus did not do this?

2. We learn from Peter that it is possible to unknowingly speak against God's Word and will and plan even as a Christian.

Even worse when we knowingly say NO to God's will for us ? Let us beware ?

3. From Jesus we learn that when we do speak against God's plan willingly or unknowingly it is Satan's work we are doing.

To oppose the -

Plain Word and will of God.

The Redemption accomplished in Christ.

All this is Satan's work.

Intercessory Prayer