

JESUS WANTS TO MAKE A TRADE, AN EXCHANGE

Galatians 2:20

Introduction: A story has been told about two boys of the same age and appearance, one was rich and the other was poor and they decided to trade places with each other for a while which they did and each one experienced the life style the other had been living. Happily there is such a trade that is possible for everybody if they want to make the trade and it is trading with Jesus, exchanging lives with Him. Jesus wants to exchange places with people.

I. THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS THAT OF JESUS WANTING TO EXCHANGE LIVES WITH OTHERS

1. Jesus has taken man's place before God, entering into all man's suffering and sorrow, was born with man's willfulness and waywardness and died a death for all.
 - Jesus took on all the consequences of man's sin before God.
 - Jesus, having taken a place among mankind, now offers mankind His place before God, giving to man His righteousness, sharing His life, lifting man to His place in Heaven.
2. Nobody can fully understand what God and Jesus have done for mankind.
 - Galatians 2:20
 - People can only give to Jesus Christ a sinful, weak, failing unworthy person and Jesus takes such people and gives to them, Himself, all that He is and all that He has.
3. This amazing offer Jesus offers involves the forgiveness of the past, the promise of the future, and the present.
 - It is reasonable that God would provide for today, as He did yesterday and will for tomorrow, but in Jesus, God saves from the sins of the past, the sins of today but will also be forgiving tomorrow.
 - Romans 8:32
 - God's love for man is of such nature that He did not stop until He gave Himself to die man's death, will He, then not help man to live the life of Jesus?

II. A TRADE, EXCHANGE IS GIVING SOMETHING AND THEN RECEIVING SOMETHING BACK

1. As a believer in Jesus Christ, one is to simply place his/her life in the hands of God and let Him do whatever He wants.
 - The believer must as him/herself, "Do I really want to be formed into the likeness of Jesus?"
 - There can be only one "driver" and therefore one must "scoot over" and let God take over.
 - Some want to keep a hand or a finger on the "steering wheel" of his/her life and not give to God full control.
 - If a person goes to a doctor because of illness and the doctor prescribes medication that will cure the illness and then that person refuses to take the prescribed medication, what is left?
 - To surrender to Jesus is to put one's life completely, entirely into His hands.

2. It is a serious thing to give oneself to another.
 - To whom is one giving him/herself?
 - What is going to happen?
 - It takes an act of faith as well as dedication
 - Some Christians think that they must give themselves over and over again and again to Jesus, never having assurance that they really, truly belong to Him.

3. One must accept the fact that once he/she believes in Jesus, then he/she must accept the fact that he/she belongs to Jesus Christ.
 - He/she is no longer his/her own.
 - His/her time is no longer his/hers.
 - Neither family, business or friends are his/her own, they all belong to the Lord Jesus.
 - Everything in the believer's life belongs to Jesus.

III. THE TRADE, EXCHANGE INCLUDES JESUS GIVING HIMSELF BACK

1. The believer has given him/herself to the Lord Jesus completely, totally and Jesus takes him/her.

2. The believer receives from Jesus what He offers, living his/her life in faith.
 - It's not the amount of faith that counts but what the object of one's faith is.
 - It's not the strength of one's faith that counts, but the certainty of God's faithfulness.
 - One does not live by his/her own feelings, but by God's faithfulness, trusting the Lord Jesus to live His life in the believer.

3. Jesus offers to live His life in those who believe in Him but He cannot until the believer trusts Him enough to give Him the chance.
 - Jesus wants to exchange, trade, lives with believers, but each believer must give Him the chance.

4. In order to be loved, one must be willing to believe that it is his/hers and then receive it.
 - Unbelief and unwillingness will cause one to ask over and over, "Do you really love me?"

CONCLUSION:

1. God loves every person and so does Jesus.
2. Jesus gave Himself for mankind.
3. God's love cannot be known until those for whom Jesus gave Himself believe and receive His gift of love.
4. When a person accepts God's gift through His Son, Jesus Christ, and gives him/herself totally to God, then the wonderful exchange/trade takes place, for then Jesus comes to live within that believer.
5. So, have you exchanged, traded lives with Jesus?