

SPECIAL TREATMENT FROM JESUS

Mark 16:7

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: How is it possible to receive special treatment from Jesus? It is true that among people there are some who receive special treatment now and then because of favoritism, (teacher's pet), maybe something done outstanding and a special recognition is given, but when did Jesus ever give special treatment to anybody? At His tomb on that resurrection Sunday morning an angel told a company of women who had come to finish the burial process for Jesus, that Jesus was not there for He had risen and said to them, *"...Fear not, for I know that ye seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, He is risen. Go tell His disciples, AND PETER, that He goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see Him, as He said unto you..."*

Why did Jesus instruct the angel to mention Peter and nobody else's name in the message to be given to the women? Peter was already one of the disciples, why mention him specifically? Why give Peter special treatment? Peter was at this time a "fallen" disciple. He had denied even knowing Jesus three days before but no sooner had Peter committed that sin of denial than a look from Jesus melted, broken his heart and Peter went out and wept bitterly.

Peter was sorry for what he had done but could not be certain of Jesus' reaction and had the message the angel delivered been addressed to the disciples only, Peter would probably have doubted whether he was still considered one of Jesus' disciples.

Jesus wanted to make sure that Peter knew that he was still included as a disciple so He had the angel mention Peter's name in particular. Peter was given special treatment from Jesus that morning. Jesus is the same today as He was then and if He cared for and had a special regard for a fallen disciple that morning who was overtaken in a fault, Jesus has the same regard and care for such of His followers today.

I. JESUS HAS A SPECIAL REGARD FOR ANY AND ALL OF HIS FOLLOWERS WHO WONDER WHETHER HE WILL FORGIVE THEM AND ACCEPT THEM BACK BECAUSE OF SIN

1. The fact that Jesus does still pay special regard for all who follow Him and commit sin and repent of it proves that Jesus is indeed the same today as He has always and will always be.

- If there was someone among many you invited to some special event who felt unworthy, out of place, would you not send that person a very special, very personal invitation and treat that person on his/her arrival with special kindness?
- Do not children who disobey parents and are punished for their disobedience sometimes think that their parents can't love them anymore?
- *"...Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven..."*
- *"...Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted..."*
- Yes, Jesus does pay special regard to His followers who sin and then repent in sorrow.

2. To regard the sorrow repenting believers show after repenting of their sins corresponds with Jesus' character and why He came in the first place.

- Jesus came to proclaim glad tidings to and comfort those who mourn.
- Jesus came as a shepherd to bring back those who had wandered away, bruised and sick, to seek and to save those who are lost.
- All Jesus' followers who get into sin and are repentant, Jesus shows special regard to and treats them with special kindness.
- Have YOU not been among this group at one time or other, yourself?

3. Those who are Jesus' followers, who sin and are sincere in their repentance are asking for and prepared to receive forgiveness and restoration.

- Jesus cares for every person, and is ready to give His blessings to all, but can only give His blessings and pardon in a certain way that will bring glory to God and honor God's law.
- Jesus cannot pardon and save those who are not repentant, who feel no sorrow for sin, who perhaps don't even know or care that they are sinners and continue to live on in their sinful way of life.
 - All of us follow the same pattern for we cannot force our forgiveness and pardon on anyone who may have hurt us in some manner and refuse to apologize or even acknowledge that they have hurt us.
- When a person does acknowledge that he/she has sinned and deserves God's everlasting punishment, and like Peter weeps bitterly over his/her sins, realizing that he/she may never be pardoned, then that person is ready to receive pardon and forgiveness from Jesus, for only then can Jesus impart to him/her His blessings.

4. Another reason Jesus gives special treatment to the repentant, like Peter, is that such people really need such treatment.

- Doubts and anxieties must be quickly removed so despondency and despair will not set in.
- Had Jesus after His resurrection, treated Peter with harshness, neglect, Peter might have done as Judas, destroyed himself in despair.
- Unworthy of pardon, worthy of everlasting punishment, no promises, no invitations, nothing to give peace, no offers of consolation, yes, all deserving, even though "disciples" of Jesus.
- Jesus therefore must send/give a special assurance of pardon, of forgiveness, a special treatment so that they (the repentant guilty) will believe that they have been forgiven.
- Jesus displays His kindness most clearly to those who feel most unworthy of it and most speedily to those who immediately need it.

5. Jesus shows special treatment/favor to mournful, repentant sinners because He is the source of repentance being accepted.

- Jesus came to be Savior and to give repentance and remission of sins to those who believe in Him.
 - When believers repent, it is because Jesus can give them forgiveness.
 - Jesus gave forgiveness to Peter, first with a look that broke Peter's heart causing Peter to go out and weep bitterly.
- Jesus looks at all who mourn over their sins with sincere sorrow.
- When Jesus gives repentance, He also gives pardon and restores that believer's fellowship.

CONCLUSION:

1. If only every person could react like Peter did when he sinned against Jesus, how changed our message would be, just preach, teach and tell glad tidings to everyone.
2. Why do people not react to their sins as Peter did?
 - People will not repent and mourn over their sins.
 - People will not renounce their sins.
3. Jesus sent this message by the angel to Peter, not because Peter fell, but because Peter mourned.

