

DOING GOOD IS NOT ALWAYS ENOUGH

Matthew 6:33 Luke 17:26-30; 14:16-24 Colossians 3:2-3 Hebrews 10:25

Introduction: We are always saying to someone, "I can do two things at once, so come keep me company while I...." or "I can listen and do this at the same time..." Well, we do God the same way all the time. Good people, doing good things, living good lives are going to Hell and Christians are doing these same good things and are missing out on blessings. Why?

We get preoccupied with doing good things and in the process have pushed God aside. We focus on our business, careers, jobs, family, but never on God. God says, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" (Matthew 6:33). Paul wrote: "*Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*" (Colossians 3:2-3)

God never tells us to "**give up everything**" but to keep all the good things AND to give Him first place in all things. The greatest hurt a Christian can commit against the Lord is to put Him in second place. Who does the waiting in your life? Who is put aside for the other? Who gets only part of your attention? Isn't God put aside for everyone and everything else?

I. JESUS HAD SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE DAYS OF NOAH AND OF LOT

(Luke 17:26-30)

1. People were going about their normal, natural ways of lives, doing normal, good things, but refused to listen to Noah and Lot. They had not time for God.
 - Every day, normal, good things draw our attention away from Jesus.
 - Jesus warned: "*...even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of Man is revealed..*"
2. Many people think they are going to heaven because they have not lived bad lives but have lived very good lives and done many good things.
 - Jeremiah said: "*...wherefore say my people..we will come no more to thee..my people have forgotten me days without number.. yet thou sayest...I am innocent...*" (2:31-32)
 - Doing good things doesn't replace time with the Lord and even pastors are guilty of allowing good church matters to replace his time needed with the Lord.
3. People come and go in attendance of churches. They are active, then they disappear. What happened? Things came up, they had to do this or that on Sunday, and some have said, "The Lord understands..."
 - "NOT SO!" Jesus will never understand why He must be less than first in His children's lives nor will He accept our putting Him second to anyone or anything.
 - Jesus is the head of the body, the Church. He who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He might have the preeminence.
 - Jesus is to be first in the Christian's life. No more discussion!

II. CONSIDER THE MAN WHO PREPARED A GREAT FEAST BUT NOBODY CAME

(Luke 14:16-24)

1. Jesus said, **"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."**
 - The parable is God's story about many, many people. Lost, unbelieving people and even His own children, Christians.
 - God invites us all to be close to Him through His Son, Jesus.
2. In the parable, people began to make excuses for not coming to the feast.
 - A real estate deal had to be taken care of instead of attending the feast.
 - A cattle deal had to be finalized so there was not time to attend the feast.
 - A man's family needed his attention so he had to be with them instead of attending the feast.
3. All of these things were good, legitimate, everyday, normal things, BUT, all of these things were given priority over the invitation to attend the feast.
 - All the normal, everyday things took priority over God. He had to be last.
4. If people can't give God their time, He won't be able to help them.
 - **"Lord, we did mighty works in your name. We cast out devils and healed the sick, all for your glory."** These people will hear from Jesus: **"Those are all good things, but you were too busy doing those things to be close or listen to me. You never sat down with me and gave me your full devotion..."**

CONCLUSION:

1. How can a Christian be doing God's will and not be giving Jesus Christ first place?
2. How can a Christian be watching for Jesus' return and not be giving Him first place in his/her life?
3. When did God change His mind about His children not giving Him first place?
4. When did God change His mind about His children not attending worship in the Lord's Day?
5. Remember, we shall reap what we have sown, someday, on payday.
6. Think now, have you been giving God and Jesus "the cold shoulder?"
7. God has so much for each of us, but if we don't give Him His proper place, we will never receive all God has for us.
8. The unbeliever, if he/she does not give God His proper place, will spend eternity in Hell.
9. So, how important is God to you?