

...AND THEY STILL DON'T GET IT!

BY: BRAD CULLEN - DECEMBER 17, 2004

Perhaps the reason some people don't "get it" is they're not supposed to understand. An amazing but overlooked truth is the reason Jesus gave for using parables. Some that claim to know the truth say Jesus taught with parables in order to make spiritual truth understood. Not so! Jesus said he used parables so that those outside the kingdom would remain outside.

"That they may look and look, but never see; that they listen and listen, yet never understand..."

At times Jesus spoke with utter clarity - with parables... and the religious still didn't get it! Jesus said, "Any individual that believes in me will perform the very same miracles you've seen me perform and even greater miracles." What's the key? Believing, but also have the ears to hear something else Jesus said practically in the "same breath." Jesus said that he didn't perform the miracles, "The Father in him did the works." Jesus was talking about those of us living in "that day"... Today! He said, however, that "these signs" will be limited to those that believe. If you don't believe - don't concern yourself - it "ain't gonna happen." Clearly, Jesus was talking about a certain kind of believing that opened the door to being what he was as a man and doing what he did. If your religious training insists that only Jesus could rightly perform miracles, then until you turn your back on such training, that instills a "form of thinking about God, but denies His power," miracles are still not going to happen.

What is this "certain kind of believing?" First of all, it takes opening our minds to hearing something else Jesus said and the context in which he said it. "Nothing is impossible to them that believe." The context was some men asking Jesus why they had been unable to cast out a demon that had been causing epileptic-like seizures in a small boy. Jesus' answer? Because you don't have enough faith. If you did have enough faith nothing would be impossible to you." The next step to acquiring enough faith to get rid of the causes of all kinds of disease - physical, emotional and spiritual disease, is to take seriously Jesus' instructions for acquiring enough faith. An integral part of getting prepared is having sufficient desire to do what Jesus said we would do if we believe. The key to this part of the equation is to admit we don't have sufficient desire. Hear this: The simple solution to the problem of not having enough faith to do what Jesus said we would do - is to stop hiding behind religious doctrines and admit that we don't have the desire. If we begin to understand that a lack of desire to do what Jesus clearly stated we should be able to do - means that we "don't care" we will see it for the sin * that it so clearly is. The way to get rid of the lack is so simple:

"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just and will forgive us AND cleanse us from the effects of our sins." If we make excuses and defend our lack of desire we get nowhere. Here then is the starting point:

"Dad, I admit that I cannot do what Jesus said I would do because I don't believe enough and I haven't cared enough. I confess this as a sin and thank you that Your promise is to not only forgive me, but also to cleanse me. I want the desire to do Your will and only Your will. Instill this in me." Now we are ready to pay attention the instructions Jesus Provided.

* The word in the original languages paraphrased as "sin" by the King James translators means to miss God. It is a tragedy that so-called "modern" translations have kept the word "sin" but failed to maintain the intent. "Sin" was a word understood by the "common" man in England in the sixteen hundreds. It was popularized by the sport of archery, widespread at the time. In a typical archery competition, a meet official stood behind a tree near the target - which had a "bullseye" and rings and "slots" that were numbered somewhat similarly to the target used in English pub game of "darts" today. Because of the distance involved, the bowsman could not see where the arrow would strike. The official would call out the score - if the arrow missed the target completely, the official called out "sin!" Wonderfully understandable to the English in the 1600's ... and the religious still don't get it.

Are we ready to apply what Jesus taught, and move toward our destiny of being who he was and doing what he did as a man? We have to repent of our religious training. Are we ready to confess our shortcomings and encourage one another to operate in faith?

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