



“And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also.” 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – January 14, 2018

Heart to Heart...

Does Jesus make a difference to us? Let's ask once more: Does Jesus really make a difference in our lives? The lack of desire to worship, church division, marriages crumble, arguments among one another, hatred, strife, examples we set, and hardness of heart are what many portray who claim their devotion to Jesus. How can that be? People pursue their own ideas of how things should be done or want them done. When their ideas are not heeded, they eventually part ways. People who have been hurt by others find themselves refusing to speak with the one who hurt them. The Supper is taken with bitterness toward someone in their heart or a bad attitude not realizing they are taking judgment from the Lord at that moment. Does Jesus really make any difference to us?

Marriages can be difficult at times but for some, hurt feelings and hateful words are the norm. The result is two people who started a wonderful covenant together drift apart and the love turns into hate. Infidelity results and blame is thrown from both sides toward the other. No one accepts responsibility. There is no humbling of hearts toward the Lord. Words spoken are cutting to make sure the other is hurt. Hearts are embittered and slowly become hardened until one day divorce with no intention of reconciliation. It gets to a point of not even brotherly love toward each other! Does Jesus really make a difference to us?

False accusations are stated as facts and true. Some wait to hear such especially if it involves one who they already despise. It's licked up like a cold cup of water on a sweltering day. They dig into the accusations from the source that spews malicious gossip. Sides are joined and lines are drawn. Yet in all this, everyone expects to be with the Lord in heaven. Does Jesus really make any difference to us?

The first day of the week, the time to bring our hearts in harmony to the Lord with His body and praise Him. A time to find comfort and release in His presence with His people. Here come the excuses. Many state this reason or that for lack of desire to worship only to find those reasons don't find their way during the week when work or things we want to do apply, living as if the Lord is not aware and we have it hidden from His sight. Does Jesus really make any difference to us?

Listen to our language we use on a daily basis. Where do our choice of words come from? Jesus said it is from the heart the mouth speaks (Matthew 12:34-35) The words we choose set examples for our families and friends. The places we go and functions we attend, does Jesus really make any difference to us?

How many sermons have you heard? How many times have you read from God's word? How many times does Jesus call us to follow Him and heed His voice? We have heard! We have read! We know! Yet it is shrugged off as meaning nothing. ***“For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also did; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.”*** (Hebrews 4:2) It's all a faith problem and that's a heart problem. Does Jesus really make any difference to us?

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