



“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 – May 20, 2018

Heart to Heart...

Too many who profess Christ simply have nothing to offer. What do you have to offer your family, your neighbors or friends when it comes to their souls? Do we have “*religion*” to offer or something greater? There is a reason for all the varied teachings and ‘churches’. The majority cannot distinguish between religions! Every denomination around us offers one thing... RELIGION! And they accept anyone who is religious. Jesus did not come to offer religion but *life* (John 10:10). Not human life as we see and live but the life of God dwelling in us that changes us into the life image of Jesus.

Judas was an apostle, appointed by Jesus. He saw the miracles while listening to the teachings of Jesus. In the end, he passed *life* from Jesus and exchanged it for money. When Judas looked at the thirty pieces of silver in his hand the reality hit him hard. He realized what he had done and found nothing to live for. *Life* was exchanged for financial profit. Judas ended his human life without the *life* of God for all eternity. There are tens of thousands of humans each day who go to their grave, some are those we love dearly, without the *life* from Jesus. In their eternal place nothing will be more gruesome than realizing what they exchanged the *life* of Jesus for in temporal pleasures that never last. And last but not least, many will have been very religious.

People live daily in human life never knowing the *life* of God. People who have been very unfortunate cannot delight in much because all they know is disappointment in human life and religion. Others have learned how to be takers without one ounce of gratitude for what they have been given. There are those enslaved to bitterness or some form of hatred that will never know the power of *life* from Jesus and the joy given because of His *life*.

Tens of millions just shrug at the name of Jesus while they ‘party hardy.’ To them Jesus is boring and kills their wants. They want happiness and find fulfillment in their own ways only to be disappointed. People who profess a faith in Jesus, who assemble to worship but it’s all in the name of ‘religion.’ People sit in the assembly week in and week out going through empty motions as that’s what religion demands. Stand up, sit down, pray now (while playing with the children), take the supper as if a piece of bread and cup of juice without any fellowship with the Lord and wanting more entertainment to keep us awake. Phones are turned on during preaching

or wandering the hallways until everything is finished. That's what religion brings but *life* from Jesus is something beyond all this.

What do you have to offer others? *Life* from Jesus!! Lifeless people are offered fun to show others that following Jesus isn't boring. Lifelessness upon lifelessness. John wrote a short letter in his first epistle saying, "***We saw the life and it was manifested!!!***" (I John 1:1-4) Listen to us and we will show you *life* found only in Jesus.

Let's not try to compete with the lifeless religion around and point everything to entertainment. Let's not try to make things look 'religious' to attract others to us. We have a message, a *life* giving message found only in Christ Jesus. Looking anywhere else you will not find it. The majority will walk away and pay no attention but the *life* from God bids them to come and drink. In Him is *life*. What do you have to offer? Think about it!!!

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