



“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 – August 5, 2018

Heart to Heart...

The lady was a very spiritual minded woman and she was in an intense struggle. She asked, “*How do I get over some ill feelings toward another that hurt me?*” It takes an honest heart to ask another this question. As her heart was weighed down she said she wanted to be free from harboring this toward another. She had tried to get free but it kept coming back into her heart. The question was asked, “*Do you really want to give this up to the Lord?*” Tears flowed and she honestly said, “*No.*” Her fear was that this individual would hurt her again.

Too many professing Jesus as their Lord and Savior are holding to resentments and bitterness toward others who hurt them. Sometimes people have a bitterness toward someone who did nothing to them, they just don’t like them! If Jesus is the center of our faith then He should be the center in our lives. His death was for my sins, my offenses toward Him and our heavenly Father. What if He had harbored hatred, bitterness in His heart toward you? Judas sold Him out for 30 pieces of silver and Jesus washed his feet. Judas was self-deceived as he continued playing the part of someone spiritual. A crowd of people exchanged a murderer for the Lord. Jesus was scorned, mocked and slapped while others scoffed. The names He was called and was declared to be the devil himself! In all this while looking to the future also, Jesus gave up His sinless life for a sinful people. What did you find when you came to be baptized into His name? FORGIVENESS 100%! Jesus didn’t withhold from any one of us. Jesus didn’t balk at you saying, “*You will probably hurt Me again!*” His life brought us before a holy Father making us blameless and holy. In all this, how many times have we hurt Him again? How many times have we failed in the eyes of our Father? Will we sin again?

Out of the death and resurrection of Jesus on our behalf came a covenant speaking: “***For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more.***” (Hebrews 8:12) Not just merciful but no remembrance! Aren’t you thankful the Lord didn’t say to you: “*I’ll forgive but I won’t forget!*”?

Does all this mean anything to us? To harbor resentments and bitterness toward another, any ill feelings in our heart toward another, what does that say about us in relation to the Lord? Many who hold to bitterness in the heart might even pray. They take of His Supper while hatred moves in the heart. Jesus speaks when we pray there is something that must be made certain between us and God:

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.” (Matthew 6:12) *“Have forgiven”* is past tense! God is searching and seeing our heart before Him when we pray and fellowship in His Supper. The Lord knows the sincerity from the heart. If there is any ill will or wrong attitude held to, do you think He will respond to that prayer? Will He have regard for your fellowship in the Supper? Or does His Supper bring you under judgment? How can we, who have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus over and over not extend that same forgiveness and love to others who have hurt us? If we hold to any resentment toward another, are we walking in step with the Lord? ***“Bearing with one another, and forgiven each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.”*** (Colossians 3:13) Think about it!!!

Brent