

Calling the Bride



“And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” – John 8:32

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Food for the Crocodile

It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. - Psalm 118:8

A group of young adults from Germany went for a hiking holiday in one of Australia’s national parks. They hired a seasoned guide to lead them in an exciting journey through a breathtaking wilderness playground. The youthful tourists were determined to soak up every aspect of their adventure and they were thoroughly enjoying their time together.

After one long day of hiking in Australia’s summer heat, they gathered around a campfire on a beach by a canal. Even though night had fallen, the temperature was still very hot. They looked at the cool, refreshing waters of the canal, longing for a swim. The area was replete with signs warning potential swimmers of the dangers of entering those crocodile infested waters.

When they asked their guide if it was okay to go swimming, he told them, no, not in that particular area, but he knew of another spot a short distance away that was safer. The group followed him to the new location ignoring the warning signs along the way.

When they arrived, the guide scanned the surface of the water with the beam of his lantern, looking for signs of the reptiles. Crocodiles have very reflective eyes and they can easily be spotted in the darkness - at least when they are floating on the surface. Seeing no signs of the creatures, he determined it was safe and he was the first to enter the water. The others quickly followed.

The guide soon left to go back and get another group to join them. In the meantime, the others remained in the water enjoying some relief from the heat. Then one of the girls was suddenly yanked under the surface. One of the men felt something brush against his leg and he yelled for everyone to get out of the water.

The girl never resurfaced. One of the park rangers located her body quite a ways down the canal on the embankment, clamped in the jaws of a large crocodile.

The tourists had put their trust in a man and allowed him to lead them past the written warnings that lined the road to disaster.

There are many today, who, like those tourists, put their faith in man to lead them through their spiritual journey in life. God has posted His warnings to us in His word. They were written to us out of love and care for our souls. He knows what is lurking for us beneath the

surface of our experiences in this world. He can see the dangers and the Scriptures in the holy Bible are designed to keep us safe – if we listen to Him and refuse to put our trust in fallible guides who choose to ignore God’s warnings.

The devil knows who he can influence to lead the innocent into his jaws. Read the Scriptures for yourself and heed those things the Lord has written for your protection. Check what you are hearing from other teachers with God’s word. Don’t put all your trust in man, trust God and His word above all others, and you will not become food for the crocodile.

Who Do We Follow?

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me - John 10:27

I was having a conversation with one of the pastors I know, when he shared with me his desire to emulate my practice of just reading the Bible. It’s okay to read other Christian resources, but apparently this man was in the habit of saturating himself with a variety of reading material that had taken precedence over the amount of time he spent immersing himself in God’s word.

“I’m going to be like you and just read my Bible,” he told me. Then he got this spacey look on his face and said, “But who do I follow?”

At that moment it was almost as if I could hear a collective groan emanating from the hosts of Heaven.

Among the first recorded words of Jesus in the Word of God is “Follow Me.” And His disciples obeyed Him. I keep thinking, why is it so many of God’s people do not find the words of Jesus and the Holy Scriptures enough to “follow”?

I received an invitation through the mail to subscribe to a “Christian” magazine. As an incentive they were offering a free poster of Gandhi with some of his sayings that related to social justice. Gandhi was sincere, but he was not a believer in Christ.

He did not believe that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God, or that Jesus was raised from the dead. He did not believe in the virgin birth. He also said that Jesus was “no help” and that His miracles were done by magic and He had psychic powers. Gandhi certainly did not believe in the atonement, so it is no surprise that Gandhi is quoted as saying just days before he

died, "All about me is darkness; I am praying for light."

Then Jesus said again to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world: he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." – John 8:12

Gandhi, obviously was not a follower of Jesus and darkness was the fruit of his rejection of the only "Way, the Truth and Life" – John 14:6. Gandhi had spent his whole life denying the Light, therefore the Light was not there to comfort him, or save him from descending into eternal darkness when he died.

Many people followed Gandhi, but if we follow anyone other than the Truth that God has provided in His Only Begotten Son, then the death bed scenario that Gandhi experienced will someday be our own.

Over and over again God warned His people against marrying foreign wives. These pagan alliances would pollute the holy separation God required for His people. These alliances ultimately lured them away from their only source of life and protection. God was forced to deal with them severely in order to bring them back to where He had ordained them to be. Whenever a professed Christian chooses to entertain ideologies or doctrines that are not contained in God's word, or allows himself to be led by personalities or organizations that are not fully dedicated to the Jesus of the Bible, then apostasy is the next step toward the eventual descent into eternal darkness.

Samson was a Nazarite who, according to the laws that defined his holy calling, he was forbidden to touch anything that was dead. He violated that command when he took honey from a dead lion and gave it to his family without telling them that it had come from a polluted source.

As believers we want to carefully guard ourselves from following Samson's example, and make sure the words we are being fed, and the words we are feeding to others are coming from the pure and undefiled manna of God's word.

When we follow the Leader God has chosen for us to follow, Jesus our Savior will keep us on the path of eternal life that He alone has purchased for our souls.

Each one of us is on journey in this life. We are just sojourners in this world. With every year, we move our tents a little closer to our final destination until we find ourselves standing on the edge of an abyss called death. Some will fall into its embrace for eternity, but those who have chosen Christ, the edge of that pit will only be a launching ramp as they spread their wings of faith and fly into eternal life.

Follow the Leader children, my children, the only One who can give you wings.

Preferring the Precepts of Men

Wherefore the Lord said, "Forasmuch as this people draw near to Me with their mouth; and their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. - Isaiah 29:13, 14

Several years ago I had an unusual dream. In this dream I was shown two men sitting at a table. Then one of the men pulled a large pizza out of his mouth and handed it to the other man to eat. When I share this with other people I ask them, "Would you eat that pizza knowing where it came from?"

The answer I get is always a resounding and disgusted, "No!" Yet, when we continually get our doctrines from the mouths of men and neglect the word of God, then we are eating that "pizza" whether we realize it or not. What would happen to our bodies if all we ate was pizza?

God tells us very clearly in His word, that if we prefer the precepts (teaching, doctrine, pizza) of men above His word, then God will remove our wisdom and without wisdom we can have no understanding because the two are linked and we will not be able to comprehend God's word. This is why there have been so many conflicting doctrines and divisions in the church. The body of Christ suffers when people prefer to indulge themselves with a steady diet of fast food from other sources and are led away from the pure healthy word of God. Slowly, respect for the authority of the Scriptures begins to erode, our minds become pre-programmed by man's doctrines and the simple purity of God's word is corrupted and distorted. God allows this to happen because He is testing us. Jesus said *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me"* – John 10:27. God tells us in the Book of Revelation that there is only one spiritual condition out of the seven churches that He will keep from "The Hour" or the great tribulation that will come upon the entire world. That church portrayed for us in Revelation 3:8 is seen clinging to the word of God and because of this foundation, the Philadelphians will not deny Jesus, and the fact that He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

Don't lose your wisdom. Seek the Lord and return to the abundant banqueting table of the pure word of God.