



"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 – December 13, 2009

Heart to Heart...

Do you “*despise*” the word of the Lord? That question might be shocking but it needs to be asked. The word “*despise*” means “to make of no account, to regard as nothing, to treat with contempt.” (Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words) Who in their right mind would “*despise*” the word of the Lord? We would readily agree that those lost, separated from Christ always seem to “*despise*” the word of the Lord. But what is most shocking, the people of God have a history of despising the word of the Lord. When God’s people did anything defiantly, knowing that what they were doing was wrong, that person “*despised*” the word of the Lord (Numbers 15:30-31). Intentional sin is despising the Lord. The result is they are cut completely off from God. In the days of Isaiah, the people of God were still having their assemblies, offering their sacrifices to the Lord and their daily prayers. Yet Isaiah said they had “*abandoned the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel.*” (Isaiah 1:4) God’s word, His presence and covenant with them meant little. They were just doing religious things but were unacceptable to the Lord. In fact, God said to stop bringing all the worthless offerings, their prayers were an abomination and He would not listen (Isaiah 1:12-15). Just because someone says they still believe in God and want to keep God in their life does not make that a reality. It is based on how you respond to the word of the Lord.

God sent the prophet Nathan to David after adultery and murder had been committed by David. The message: “*Why have you despised the word of the Lord by doing evil in His sight?*” (II Samuel 12:9) We aren’t talking about those who do not know God or anything about Him. These are God’s people and the results are tragic! The consequences David had to face were great because he “*despised*” the word of the Lord.

When we are confronted from God’s word about our lives, God is looking at our heart for a response. If there is no response, or if someone just shrugs it off, they are “*despising*” the word of the Lord! Anytime we will not follow God’s word, we are “*despising*” God. We are treating Him and His word as nothing! His word makes no difference in our lives and we treat Him with contempt. I remember a lady in Christ from years gone by tell me that if she heard one more sermon on the role of a wife submitting to her husband, she was going to leave! You can probably guess that she was having a problem in her marriage. In her mind, she thought she was in a relationship with the Lord when in reality, she “*despised*” Him!

It is easy to think things are great between us and the Lord. The real test is how we treat God and His word. If we do not take His message to heart, we “*despise*” the word of the Lord. If we know we need to make changes and refuse, we “*despise*” the word of the Lord. When God confronts us to give up certain attitudes and ways and we shrug it off, we “*despise*” the word of the Lord. God says that someone that “*despises*” His word by doing and acting ways that are contrary to Him, that person will be completely cut off! To “*despise*” the word of the Lord is to “*despise*” the Lord Himself! Many of God’s people have always held to a form of religion thinking they were in fellowship. In their lives, they “*despised*” the word of the Lord...and the most religious killed Jesus! Think about it!!!

Brent