



"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 10, 2010

## ***Heart to Heart...***

I've heard it many times and I know you have too. People say that one can interpret Scriptures differently. That's what leads to misunderstandings and has led to denominations! In order to properly understand and apply Scriptures, one must be willing to listen and accept what Jesus spoke and is written.

Jesus gives great insight to how people can misinterpret what was spoken. In Mark 8:15-21, Jesus had gone to the other side of a lake and his disciples had forgotten to take food. Jesus spoke the words, "***Watch out! Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the leaven of Herod.***" (8:15) His disciples concluded (interpreted) He was speaking about them having no food. Their minds were set on food and not on the words of Jesus. Jesus was aware of their discussion and responded, "***Why do you discuss the fact that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart? Having eyes to see, do you not see? And having ears to hear, do you not hear? And do you not remember when I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces you picked up?***" Jesus continued His thoughts: "***When I broke the seven for the four thousand, how many large baskets full of broken pieces did you pick up?***" Each time they answered the questions with the right answers and Jesus concluded: "***Do you not yet understand?***" Their minds had raced all over the place with the words of Jesus thinking this is what He meant and was talking about because their mind set was not on listening and seeking what was spoken! It wearied Jesus by His own disciples giving their own twist and meaning to His words. He had to ask them if they had a hardened heart! (This is always the problem!) He had to explain to them that food was not the issue because of what they had experienced with Him. The issue was the evil influence of the Pharisees and Herod on people and even His own disciples! Their interpretation led them to be unable to follow the Lord's word while adding their own personal discussions among themselves.

The application is made to us today. Too many are trying to make the Holy Scriptures say things they do not say or mean. People 'yank' a verse because a certain word is used thinking that is what is being discussed. People look for 'loop-holes' in God's word to justify their actions. We have congregations of our own brethren that distort Scriptures, twisting what Jesus was discussing or meaning which has led to our own divisions. Denominations were built over personal interpretations rather than accepting the pure word of truth for what it says. They continue to spring up like wild fire. What is worse, ***all the religions attribute their teachings to Jesus!*** We are encouraged by the world to accept all religions, all faiths and find a religion that fits our likings no matter what Jesus says! (He never taught or encouraged that.) Many just blindly follow because of personal likings and comfort, believing they are right with the Lord. Just pick and choose what parts of God's word that we like, ignore other parts and many will make their whole doctrine on it while giving credit to Jesus, praising God and believe they will be in heaven!!

There is a reason the apostle Paul told Timothy to "***handle accurately the word of truth.***" (II Timothy 2:15). The apostle Peter warned that there will be false teachers and will malign the way of the truth (II Peter 2:2). Many will follow these maligned ways. The Galatian congregations were warned that those who distort the truth of the gospel were going to be held accountable (Galatians 1:6-9). How

can one be certain? Listen and accept the word of God as the word of God. It all fits together. One can't take one part and accept it while ignoring another part. One can't approach God's word with their own personal beliefs, twisting it to meet their own ideas and end up saved. Scripture was not written to be interpreted. It was written to be accepted as the word of God without any twists. (Read Acts 2:40-41 how they accepted the word.) The Thessalonians were praised for accepting the word of God as the word of God without any manipulation by man (I Thessalonians 2:13). How do you handle God's word? Think about it!!!

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