

To God be the Glory

Luke 10:17~20

It is written... *He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord...*

But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Here we find the disciples returning from a mission that Jesus had sent them out on, and they were celebrating the victories they had acquired over the “*Powers of Darkness*.” They returned rejoicing over the incredible power they possessed, powers that even the devils were subject to. No doubt, a reference to the fact that they were able to cast devils out of men, they had encountered along the way. And when you consider having that kind of power, it seems only natural to be excited about it. But notice how Jesus responds...

(Vs 18~20) ¹⁸*He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.* ¹⁹*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.* ²⁰*Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

The response Jesus gave, was that of a rebuke, in that of a warning. He cites Satan’s fall, and then rebukes them for “*boasting*” of the fact that the spirits were subject unto them. In saying, “*even the devils are subject unto us,*” they were referring to the fact, that they were able to “*cast out demons*” from those who were possessed. If you recall, just previously, the disciples had been approached by a father of young man, who was demon possessed, to cast it out. But they were unable to do so, and ultimately Jesus ended up doing it, while rebuking the disciples for their lack of faith.

But now here, they were more than capable! Here we find them returning, “*boasting*” of the POWER they had, and how that even the devils were subject them. To which, Jesus responded by rebuking them. The point is, they were “*boasting*” in things they should not be “*boasting*” in... The context of the passage, is “*Improper Boasting.*”

(Vs 19~20a) Jesus explains, ¹⁹*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.* ²⁰*Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you...*

The emphasis is clear...they should not be “*boasting*” of the power they had. Jesus affirms the fact, that He had given them, complete power over the enemy! That is the “*imagery*” illustrated here in that of “*treading on serpents and scorpions...*” Those are metaphors of evil, and wickedness. The fact they are portrayed as “*treading on them*” speaks to the reality that Jesus has placed them under their feet! Meaning they have complete rule and power over them. “*I have given you complete power over the enemy...he is powerless against you.*”

But even so...I don’t want you “*rejoicing in this*”... This is not something you should be “*boasting*” of! If you wish to “*Boast*”...then boast of the fact...*that your names are written in heaven!*

Again, the context here is “*Improper Boasting, misdirected glory.*” And given that, Jesus’ statement that “¹⁸*He had beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven,*” is best interpreted as a word of warning! He is warning the disciples to beware of “*such boasting*” because it was of “*similar boasting*” that led to Satan’s fall. It is the “*spirit*” that had resulted in the disciples, that Jesus is confronting here, that developed as a result of the power they had over the devils! The “*Spirit of Pride!*” The reason Jesus

rebukes them here is, because “*such boasting of one’s abilities*” is extremely dangerous, because it can very easily lead to “*Pride!*” The very reason Satan was “*Cast out of heaven!*”

The statement is aimed at reminding them, that “*Satan was cast out of heaven for his boasting!*” Satan’s fall was a result of “*Pride.*” He “*exalted Himself*” against God! And here, the disciples **were treading on dangerous ground**, by boasting of their powers over the devils!

Such boastings... “*Feed and nourishes*” the Flesh!

The very thing that Jesus came to deliver us from! Beloved, listen to me...the problem with mankind is not that he is has messed up a few times, that he occasionally says a bad word, or that he commits an act that is considered sinful... (There is such a “*superficial*” understanding of the gospel in our day...) Sin is often thought in terms of “*doing bad things.*” Like drinking, cussing, stealing, fornication, etc... And those are bad, but that is not how the bible defines sinners. Men are declared to be “*Sinners*” because they walk in the spirit of the FLESH!

The FLESH refers to the “*Fallen, Sinful Nature*” that we were all born with! It refers to a “*rebellious nature*” that usurps the authority of God in one’s life! Understood correctly, it is *the nature of Satan!* Just as we bear the “*natures*” of our parents, unconverted man bears the nature of his father, the devil. Like his father Satan, man has rebelled against the authority of God in his life, and lives unto **himself**, pursuing **his own** will, seeking **his own** desires. Basically, man is **his own** God as it were. **He** sits on the throne, **he** calls the shots, **he** determines what **he** does and doesn’t do. Beloved, that is the same “*Spirit*” that Lucifer manifested, that led to his being cast out of heaven! You can read of Lucifer’s boasting in Isaiah 24, **I, I, I, I, I...**

Hearing the disciples “*boasting*” of their ability to cast out devils... Jesus quickly rebukes them, and charges them, not to be boasting in such! He knows the danger of such boasting. It was this kind of boasting that led to Satan’s fall!

(Vs 20) ²⁰***Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you...
...but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.***

The reference here to “*having their names written in heaven,*” refers to a common custom of the day... In every city and town, there was a “*Book*” that was kept, consisting of the names of the citizens of that city. If your name was written in that book, you were given privileges and rights pertaining to that city. But if it was not found written there, you were considered a foreigner, and denied those privileges. (This same is still very much true in our day, there is a registry somewhere, that contains “*our name,*” confirming our citizenship here in America.)

Beloved there is a “*Book*” being kept in heaven...that is referred to in Revelation, as the “*Lambs Book of Life.*” In it, contains the names of those who belong to Kingdom of God! The names that are written in that book, are the citizens of heaven! I would to God, that we could understand the fullness of what it means to have your name written in “*This book*”...

Listen, you may have your name written in a membership book of some church, here on this earth, but let me remind you, that doesn’t mean anything, that is not what makes you a citizen of the kingdom of heaven. Matter of fact, I am terribly concerned that MANY whose names are written on church membership rolls, are not written on in heaven’s book! I say that, not in the sense of judging them, but because I find very few, and I mean few, who show any signs of true repentance, of turning from SELF! Self is still very much exalted in their lives, they continue to live their lives on this earth to self, rather than humbling themselves before the feet of Jesus, and living their lives to Him, serving His will, His desires in their life!

I'm terribly concerned beloved...that many in our day, even though they have been baptized, even though they have their names written in a church membership book somewhere...I'm terribly afraid that they have "Self" yet exalted in their life. You see, at the heart of the gospel of Christ is the Cross... The call of Christ, is to "deny yourself, take up the cross (*a daily putting self to death*) and follow Him! Beloved, I know the gospel is true, and that is the only way, for the simple fact, for years "I" usurped the rule and reign of God in my life, by taking the place that rightfully belongs to God! I walked for years in the spirit of Pride, that is to say the Flesh! Living my life to SELF! I did what I wanted to do, I pursued what I wanted, **I, I, I**...(just like Satan!)

It is because of this, that Jesus came into the world, and suffered the death of the cross... Jesus died to save sinners! He did in hopes, that such a love as this, would change the hearts of men. That it would result in men, humbling themselves, coming down off of the throne, yielding to Him His rightful place!

I want to close, by making something very, very clear... Whether or not YOUR NAME is written in "THIS BOOK" (the Lambs book of Life)...depends on whether or not you have "Believed" the gospel of Jesus Christ, *listen*...MANIFESTED by a genuine repentance, turning from SELF, by humbling your SELF down from the throne of your life, yielding it to its rightful owner, Jesus Christ! And listen, MANIFESTED by living your life, here in this world, serving **HIS** will, **HIS** desires, **HIS** call on your life! It needs to be understood this morning, the man who continues to live to his own will, pursuing his own desires, his own ambitions...need not think, his name is written in this book! Regardless of how religious he may be, no matter how many times he's been baptized, and the fact that his name is in the church membership book.

For those of you who have heeded the gospel of Christ, and have taken up the cross, living daily lives of putting this SELF to death... I want to remind you...you are blessed about all men, for your names are written in heaven! Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice! This is the one thing that is approved of God to rejoice in. Beloved, there is only ONE THING we should "boast" about...Christ, and what He has done for us! That's really the intent here of "*boasting that your names are written in heaven.*" Beloved, the names that have been written in this book, have not been written with ink, but with the "*Precious Blood of the Lamb!*" As it is written... *He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord...*