

Luke 10:21~24

When you consider the “*Likes*” of those who made up this band of disciples of Christ, you will quickly realize, that these folks did not represent the elite of Israel. They were not the “*Crème of the crop.*” This collection of individuals, that followed Jesus over those dusty trails of Israel, would be better described as a group of “*Outcast*”... a group of “*Misfits.*” Now I’m not trying to be ugly, I’m just saying that these folks is not quite the ones you’d think He would pick. This group was a very diverse group of people, it consisted of farmers, fisherman, tax-collectors... It consisted of former thieves, adulterers, con-artist, prostitutes... Not exactly the “*Kinds*” of people you’d expect to find, being used to bring about the establishment of the kingdom of God on the earth. Yet, these are the very ones, that Jesus hand-picked Himself, and used to do just that.

I suggest to you, that if we had been in charge of “*picking*” who it would be, to do this work, we would have very likely looked to the established religious system of the day, seeking out the experts, and the scholars, those with years and years of religious studies... to do this task. But not Christ, there we no such people, among those that followed Him.

There’s no doubt in my mind, that this group of individuals, received a lot of ridicule and mocking, by the religious leaders of the day. No doubt, they were the objects of many a crude and tasteless jokes. I can just see it, as Jesus and His disciples walked through the streets of Jerusalem, I can just see these “*pious, haughty, self-righteous religious leaders,*” sneering down their noses at them, in disgust and contempt.

Beloved, if there’s one thing I cannot stand, it is this. I cannot stand someone who walks with a “*Spirit of Superiority.*” People who think they are better than others. I can’t stand those people, and according to the scripture, neither can God! According to Proverbs 6:16, God HATES these kinds of people... In Proverbs 6, we find a list of seven things that God hates, According to that list, the number one thing that God HATES, is a “*Proud look*”... A “*Proud look*” literally translates “*Eyes of loftiness.*” It is the attitude of “*Overvaluing Self*” and “*Undervaluing Others.*”

The reason God HATES a “*Proud look*” (PRIDE) so much, is because it is the “*Exaltation of the FLESH!*” The FLESH refers to the dark, sinful, depraved, fallen nature inside each one of us. It refers to a “*rebellious nature*” that usurps the authority of God in one’s life! Understood correctly, it is *the nature of Satan!* It is a nature so dark, so sinful, so wicked, and so evil, that it is impossible for IT to produce anything good!

(Romans 7:18) Paul says, ¹⁸*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwells no good thing...*

Listen, according to the scriptures, the “*best that we can produce*” within ourselves, is as dung, rubbish, manure! Now I know there are some of you here this morning, that would argue with me on this. You would agree to a certain extent, saying that there are some who are not so good, but you would disagree with me that all men evil and wicked, sinfully depraved. And to argue this, you would point to those who, (in your eyes) are really good people, and you’d cite all the “*good things*” they do. You probably think, that I’m harsh, and see me as merely running men down, even see me as being “*mean spirited.*”

But that’s not true at all, I love men... What I’m telling you is the truth... And for anyone to try and argue differently, arguing for “*Man’s Goodness*” would only reveal that they are yet “*blind*” and don’t have a clue as to what is in man!

Listen, the only reason anyone would see men as “*inherently good,*” would be because they are using the wrong standard of measurement. The one who argues “*Man’s goodness*” does so by comparing “*Men with Men.*” And I would agree with you there, if you measure men with men, then are some really good men, especially when you compare them with others who are desperately evil and wicked.

But...MEN are not the standard! The standard of “*Goodness*”...is GOD! God is GOOD! It is as Jesus told one young man who came to Him asking about eternal life, and Jesus told him “*There is none good but God.*” Beloved, that is a far truer statement than any of us could ever imagine! When you look at men, in the “light of God,” the dark, sinful wickedness of men is easily seen! You won’t see this, comparing men with men. For by doing that, some men will shine! But when you compare the best of men with God, they are as an evil, wicked, repulsive thing!

Standing in the presence of God, that great, holy prophet Isaiah said, “*I am an unclean man, with unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of an unclean people!*” He later said...“*Our righteousness is as filthy rags!*” He was referring to the “Goodness of Israel” in terms of all their “*Religiosity!*” Man at “*His best*” is as dung and rubbish in light of the goodness and righteousness of God.

Beloved, you know what we need more than anything else... Is for God to allow us to see ourselves as we really are! If we could but catch a glimpse of ourselves, in the light of His glory...we would fall on our face before God, crying out for mercy, out of shame and unworthiness! We would not walk around here so arrogantly, filled with pride as though we are something, boasting of our so-called goodness! But rather, we’d walk humbly before the Lord, boasting of “*His goodness!*”

You see beloved, God HATES “*Pride in a man*” because for a man to boast of himself, is to “*Boast in his sinful FLESH!*” It is to “*Glory in his SIN!*” Given that’s all man can produce, is sin, to boast in anything we do, is to boast in our SIN! When the only thing worthy of our boasting, is in the goodness and righteousness of God, that is revealed in His Son, the Lord Jesus!

I have said all that to say this...it was just “*this kind of spirit*” that the Pharisees and Scribes (Religious leaders of the day) possessed. They were prideful men, who boasted of their goodness, their righteousness. They would exalt themselves over those around them, declaring how sinful they were and how righteous they were.

We are given the perfect example of this, in Luke 18:9~17, the Pharisee and the Publican in the temple...

And it was because of this kind of spirit, that they were “*left out*” of being part of the kingdom work! It is these folks that Jesus is referring to here as the “*Wise and Prudent.*” By referring to them as *wise and prudent*, in no way was it meant as a compliment. It was a statement *filled with sarcasm!*

(Vs 21a) “*I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hid these things from the wise and prudent, and have revealed them unto babes...*”

The question becomes, WHAT has He hidden from them? And WHAT has He revealed to these babes? And who are these babes? Well, He is referring to the kingdom! Speaking of the eternal kingdom that Christ had come to establish here on earth. A kingdom that God had promised to “Set up” in Israel, the one that these men had studied about, and looked for all their lives. A kingdom, that they were sure, they would occupy the chiefest seats, along side the Messiah, ruling and reigning over the people.

But none of that would come to pass... Matter of fact, because of their “Pride,” they would not even be a part of the kingdom! As a result of their “*haughty spirit,*” because they considered themselves superior to others, they would receive nothing of God! While in turn, the kingdom would be given to (what they considered) outcast, pheasant’s...nobodies!

They are the ones He’s referring to here as “*babes.*” He uses the term “babes” to illustrate the religious intelligence of those whom God would use. They were babies in comparison to these “*wise, prudent scholars.*” The term babies serves to reflect how these men looked down on these folks. It’s like, “*Well, these are little children, mere babies compared to US...what can they do?*”

These men thought they were SOMETHING, while looking on these folks as NOTHING! They saw these folks as inferior, as inadequate, while seeing themselves as quite sufficient and more than adequate. When the truth was, as we shall find out here, it was just the opposite! It was this group of outcast, this group of misfits, that were sufficient and qualified. While these men were inadequate and completely unprofitable! Why? Because of the correct assessment the disciples had of themselves, in contrast to the erroneous view the religious leaders had of themselves!

(Illustration: Balloons... Need several “*Blown up*” with some not...) These disciples saw themselves as they were, sinners, undeserving, unjust, etc. In contrast to the Pharisees and Scribes, who saw themselves as righteous, holy, just, based on their adherence to the Law of Moses. But the truth was, they both were the same! They were both sinners, in need of a savior. A balloon makes a good illustration of this, they were both balloons. The difference was, those who followed Christ, came empty and humbled, as a result of seeing themselves for what they were, unworthy sinners. While the religious leaders were all “*puffed up*,” as a result of seeing themselves as righteous and holy, simply based on their adherence of the Law of Moses.

Let me ask you... Who was truly wise and prudent when it came to the things of God? Right, the prostitutes, thieves, etc, because they understood they were sinners, completely unworthy and undeserving of anything from God. Which is vastly different than the way the Pharisees saw themselves!

(Vs 21~24) *²¹In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. ²²All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knows who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him. ²³And he turned him unto his disciples, and said privately, Blessed are the eyes which see the things that ye see: ²⁴For I tell you, that many prophets and kings have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

Jesus looks to His disciples and says, “Blessed are you, for your eyes see things and your ears hear things that mighty Kings and Prophets have desired to see and hear for centuries! But you...you whom “*this world*” deems of little value, and little worth, you my dear friends, are greatly blessed, in that you get to see and hear them!

Listen, if you are here this morning, and you are a sinner...in that I mean that you fully recognize that there’s nothing in you worthy of God’s favor. You realize your shortcomings, your inadequacies...you come before the Lord with a sense of “unworthiness”... Listen, you are blessed above all men! For it is that “*Spirit*” that the Father seeks and honors! “*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of God!*”