



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Tonight We Have a Two-Banger

I'm sitting here working while listening to sermons in the plural. It occurs to me that there is a problem with the teaching that it's sinful to question the pastor or even God himself.

For starters there are some people who claim that we are not to question the pastor because he is God's anointed. I don't buy that. Pastors are hired by organizations that are run by sinful humans. Pastors are humans that have their own set of problems making them also sinful humans. And, and this is a big and, they are not more important than God, Some of them may think they are but they aren't.

And what about questioning God?

Let's remember Abraham who got into an argument with God when God visited him under the oaks of Mamre. God told Abraham he was intending to destroy the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham argued with him and asked him repeatedly to lower the standards for those cities. God granted Abraham's requests each time and Abraham eventually stopped asking. In the end, there weren't enough righteous people in those towns. God rescued Lot and his 2 daughters but everyone else was destroyed. (Genesis 18)

Abraham argued with God yet he was considered to be the friend of God.

Moses also got into an argument with God. The Israelites had Aaron build them a golden calf and they were worship it. God told Moses to step aside and he

would destroy the Israelites and make a great nation out of Moses's descendants. Moses didn't go along with this and asked for him to not act in this way, pointing out that it would make God look bad if he did that. (Exodus 32:1-14)

Moses was guilty of murder and he argued with God yet he was allowed to speak to God face-to-face.

How about Jacob? Jacob physically wrestled with God. He refused to let go of God until God granted his request which was to bless him. (Genesis 32:22-31)

God himself invites us to question him. He wants us to wrestle with hard-to-understand concepts and come to him for help in finding those answers. "Come, let us reason together. Though your sins be scarlet they shall be white as snow." (Isaiah 1:18)

Here's a link to the sermon I'm listening to that brought about these thoughts:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BD6h8kCQMII>

Love to all and have a lovely day,

Hannah

The above was written during the week and I had intended to post it as a mid-week offering of sorts but for some reason I didn't get that done. As it turned out today was an extremely busy day. Elkanah had to work and I had a doctor's appointment this morning that took all morning because I was a work-in. By the time I got home I was hungry and beginning to feel the effects of not having eaten anything since yesterday so I assumed incorrectly that I could eat a peanut butter and sugar free jelly sandwich without it bothering me. I was wrong. It ended up knocking me out and I slept all afternoon. Elkanah came home at noon but he was busy the rest of the day with things he needed to do and here it is after 9 p.m. He didn't get anything written that I could post and he is too tired to write something. I asked him to proof the above and said we'd use it.

But I want to add a little something to this because the above is so short. During our Bible study tonight we talked about a passage that's in the Bible that has caused people to question what happened. We discussed it and had a bit of insight during our discussion. Here's the story and it's talking about a healing that Jesus performed:

23 He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

24 He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

25 Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. – Mark 8:23-25 NIV

At some point, and I wish I could remember when and who it was that said this, somebody was talking about this passage and suggested what happened here and why Jesus appears to have failed with his first attempt at healing the guy. I would like to give credit to the person who suggested this but I just don't remember. But so you'll know, this wasn't my idea and I would give proper credit if I could remember.

Here's what I understood from the interpretation of this story and this is my wording: Have you ever had someone spit, literally spit in your eye? What did you experience? I've been spat upon but I don't know that I've ever experienced having someone spit directly into my eye. The person who told this said that he had experienced it and told what it was like. It made his vision blurry.

Jesus spat into this man's eyes and the man was instantly healed, but his vision was blurry because of the saliva that was in his eyes. When Jesus reached up and touched him the second time, he was simply cleaning the spit out of the man's eyes. When that was done the man was able to see perfectly.

Now here's what we discovered when we discussed this story and the interpretation that I had heard. There is an object lesson in this for us. We are blinded by the cares of this world, unable to see the truth about God and his overwhelming Love for us. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes and shows us the truth. If we accept it then he will work within us to clean us up and we will end up seeing God in his Glory, and remember that his Glory is his Character which is Love.

So, this is short tonight. May God bless you throughout the weekend.

Lots of love,

Hannah

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