



FISHERS OF MEN

Pt. 2

I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. -Galatians 2:20

In the last devotion, I began some points based on Ravi Zacharias video, *Apologetics in the 21st Century*. I wish to conclude it now. The first two points were (1) Set apart Christ as Lord, and (2)The message must be seen as well as heard.

The [message] must not be merely argued but also felt in convictions. There are two HUGE points to this.

First, we are not about winning the argument. We are ALWAYS about winning the “arguer”. Jesus did not call us to “Go and make arguments...” he called us to make disciples. It’s true, there are people that misconstrue or out-and-out lie about God, Jesus, Christians and scripture. We need to know our Bible so that we can “correct and rebuke” unscriptural statements. But, as Peter says (1 Peter 3:15), do this with “gentleness and respect.” Remember, we are trying to win the person, not the argument.

Second, it is not your job to convict people. I’ll say that again, it is NOT your job to convict. To some of you, this may be the first time you have heard this. John 16:8 says that the Holy Spirit convicts. We don’t have the authority nor power to convict anyone, even ourselves. So what is our role in this? To speak the Word. To tell people of the truths of Jesus found in scripture. Our job is to “plant the seed.” The Holy Spirit waters (convicts and guides) the seed. So speak “words of life” in Jesus and let the Holy Spirit do His work.

We must rescue the means of scripture, not just the ends. This may sound a little up in the clouds a bit. Let me bring it down. We must not only focus on what we WILL have someday according to the scriptures. We must focus on what we have NOW according to scriptures. God’s Word is about today. Now. God’s name is I AM. Present. And that’s the rub. Many look forward to eternity someday but do not see a need to live by scriptures today. Craig Groeschel calls them “Christian Atheists.” Do you put His Word into practice in every moment of every day? Or are they somewhat like a philosophy that cushions your mistakes and eternity?

To me, this is the biggest hindrance to our witness today; the message of holiness and grace lived out in our life. Holiness lives in our acceptance of the gift of Jesus, being committed to keep our relationship with Jesus fresh and new as well as lived out in the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). Grace in the answer from the cross to our repentance of sin and being cleansed from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Perhaps if the world saw us committed to living according to scriptures in every aspect of our lives, and saw us joyfully living in this relationship, they may see a need for this One they call Jesus Christ.

So “go and make disciples”. You’ve been called and the world still needs Jesus.

From My Heart,

Billy