

WE MUST REFRESH OUR MINDS FROM LAST WEEK TO HEAR TO HEAR TODAY'S GOSPEL. **WHOEVER EATS MY FLESH AND DRINKS MY BLOOD HAS ETERNAL LIFE,, AND I WILL RAISE HIM UP AT THE LAST DAY.** "MANY OF JESUS DISCIPLES WHO WERE LISTENING SAID,, **THIS SAYING IS HARD,,, WHO CAN ACCEPT IT.**" WHAT A REACTION.

THE WORD AS USED HERE FOR DISCIPLE MEANS "**LEARNER**". IT IS APPLIED TO THE MANY FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WHO WANTED TO BE FEED AGAIN LIKE THE 5000,, OR WERE LOOKING FOR SIGNS OR WANTING TO HEAR HIM TEACH BUT WERE NOT YET TRUE BELIEVERS IN WHO JESUS WAS. BY SAYING THIS IS A HARD SAYING ,, THIS LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE,, MEANT THAT THEY WERE OFFENDED,, THAT WHAT JESUS WAS TEACHING WAS ABSURD ,, **WHO CAN ACCEPT IT** ,,,, NOT US,, AND THEY WENT BACK TO THEIR OLD SINFUL WAY OF LIFE. THEY MISSED OUT,, THEY REJECTED THE BREAD OF HEAVEN,, THE BREAD OF LIFE.

MANY PEOPLE TODAY FIND JESUS WORDS HARD AND OFFENSIVE,, **"FOR THIS REASON I HAVE TOLD YOU THAT NO ONE CAN COME TO ME UNLESS IT IS GRANTED HIM BY MY FATHER."** MEANING THAT THE FATHER DRAWS US TO JESUS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT,, IT'S AN ACT OF GRACE,, GOD DOSE THE WORK OF SALVATION. MANS WORK HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. AT THAT EVERYBODY CRIES ,, BUT WE HAVE FREE WILL. YES,, WE HAVE THE CHOICE TO RESPOND TO GOD'S SPIRIT MOVING IN OUR HEARTS,,, AS JESUS SAID ,, " **I AM THE WAY,, THE TRUTH,, AND THE LIFE,,, NO ONE COMES TO FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.**" BUT THAT IS SUCH A HARD EXCULIVE SAYING,, THERE ARE MANY PATHS,, SO MANY GOOD PEOPLE AND FAITHS AND WAYS TO GET TO HEAVEN,, JESUS RESPONSE " **ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE. FOR WIDE IS THE GATE AND BROAD IS THE ROAD THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION,, ,,,, AND MANY ENTER IT.**" HARD SAYINGS.

THEN WE ARE CHALLENGED BY OUR SECOND READING,,, “ **BE SUBORDINATE,, SUBMISSIVE,, TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE FOR CHRIST.** “ IN THE BOOK OF PHIL’S IT SAYS,,, “**DO NOT THINK MORE HIGHLY OF YOUR SELF THAN YOU DO OF OTHERS.** “ HARD SAYINGS,,, BUT ST. PAUL INSPIRED BY THE H.S. SETS THE STANDARD OF OUR SUBMISSION TO CHRIST JESUS AND HOW IT SHOULD EFFECT OUR LIVES,,, IN RELATION TO OTHER PEOPLE.

THEN THE SCRIPTURE HITS US RIGHT AT HOME,,, “ **WIVES,, SHOULD BE SUBORDINATE TO THEIR HUSBANDS AS TO THE LORD. FOR THE HUSBAND IS THE HEAD OF HIS WIFE JUST AS CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH. AS THE CHURCH IS SUBORDINATE TO CHRISIT,,, SO WIVES SHOULDS BE SUBORDINATE TO THEIR HUSBANDS IN EVERYTHING.**” MEN,,, DOSE’NT THAT SOUND JUST FANTASTIC. BUT LET ME TELL YOU ALL SOMETHING,,, THIS HAS BEEN IN THE WESTERN CHUCH ONE OF THE MOST ABUSED PIECES OF SCRIPTURE THAT HAS DAMAGED AND DESTROYED LIVES. IN PAST YEARS WOMEN HAVE BEEN MADE DOOR MATS IN HOUSEHOLDS,,, IT HAS BEEN THE EXCUSE FOR ENDURING ABUSE AND ANTI-CHRIST BEHAVIOR BY HUSBANDS,,, BOTH IN THE PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC CHURCHES. THE WHOLE EMPHASIS OF TEACHING HAS BEEN ON THE SUBMISSIVENESS OF THE WIFE WHICH IS NOT THE MESSAGE ST. PAUL IS SAYING AT ALL.

THE HARD SAYING IS FOR THE HUSBAND,, AND IF HE LIVES HIS LIFE AS AS CRHIST DOSE FOR THE CHURCH,,,,, HIS WIFE WILL LOVINGLY SUBMIT TO HIM AS SHE DOES TO JESUS. PAUL IS WRITING TO A JEWISH EASTERN CULTURE,,, WHERE THE WOMEN WAS NOTHING,, ANYTHING SHE SAID,,, HAD TO CONFIRMED BY TWO WITNESSES,, AND WHAT PAUL WAS DOING WAS LIFTING THE WIFE UP,, ELEVATING HER STATUS. IN THE WEST WE PUSHED THE WIFE DOWN.

THE SCRIPTURE SAYS,,, “**HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES,, EVEN AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND HANDED HIMSELF OVER TO SANCTIFY HER.** “ JESUS HANDED HIMSELF OVER AS A SACRIFICE TO LOVE,,, SAVE AND PURIFY THE CHURCH. A HUSBAN'S LOVE

FOR HIS WIFE IS NOT TO BE A SELFISH,, SELF CENTERED LOVE,,, WHAT CAN I GET OUT OF THIS MARRIAGE,,,,BUT A SACRIFICIAL ONE IN THE LIKENESS OF JESUS,,,,CARING FOR HER SO THAT THEY CAN BOTH WALK TOGETHER IN PURITY.

“SO ALSO HUSBANDS SHOULD LOVE THEIR WIVES AS THEIR OWN BODIES.. HE WHO LOVES HIS WIFE LOVES HIMSELF.” WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TROUBLE LOVING OURSELVES GUYS,,, DO WE,,, AND OUR TOYS. PAUL IS SAYING HERE THAT A HUSBAND SHOULD HAVE THE SAME LOVE,, SEEK THE SAME CARE AND COMFORT FOR HIS WIFE AND HE DOES FOR HIMSELF...HE SHOULD REGARD HIS WIFE AS HIS OWN BODY,,, AND PROTECT HER AS HE WOULD HIS OWN BODY.

“ NO ONE HATES HIS OWN FLESH BUT RATHER NOURISHES AND CHERISHES IT,,, EVEN AS CHRIST DOES THE CHURCH,,, BECAUSE WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY. FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE AND THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH.” THESE ARE ALL HARD SAYINGS,,, WHO CAN ACCEPT IT,,, JESUS EXAMPLE OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE IS A HARD ONE TO DUPLICATE. BUT AS WE SUBMIT OUR LIVES TO THE LORD,, THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES AND EMPOWERS US TO DO SO.

THE WORD NOURISH AND CHERISH MEAN,,, THAT THE HUSBAND IS TO DO ALL HE CAN TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF HIS WIFE. NOW WHY WOULD WE DO THAT? BECAUSE WE DON'T HATE OURSELVES,,, WE CERTAINLY TAKE CARE OF OURSELVES,,,, MAKE SURE WE HAVE THE RIGHT TRUCK,,, HAVE THE RIGHT SHOES,,, THE RIGHT RIFLE,,, PACKING SIDE ARM,,, GOOD HAIR CUT,,, LOOKING SHARP,,, CAMPER,,,AND THE LIST GOES ON WHAT EVER YOUR TOYS ARE OR HOBBIE. IF THAT IS THE CASE,,, THEN WE ARE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE NURISH AND CHERISH THE WIFE WITH THE SAME CARE.

MANY PEOPLE TODAY ARE OFFENDED BY THE TEACHINGS OF TRUTH AND THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL,,, THE WORDS OF

JESUS ARE SPIRIT AND LIFE,, BUT THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT AND BELIEVE THEM.

I ONLY QUOTED A FEW OF THE HARD SAYINGS OF JESUS, THERE ARE MANY MORE THAT DEAL WITH BEING A TRUE DISCIPLE OF JESUS THAT PEOPLE TAKE OFFENSE AT,,, BECAUSE OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL BIASES. OR THEY INTERPRET CERTIN PARTS OF THE SCRIPTURE TO FIT THEIR PROGRESSIVE COMFORT LEVEL,,, OR THEY THINK IT NO LONGER FITS OUR PC CULTURE TODAY,,, THEN THEY ARE NOT FOLLOWING JESUS AS LORD,,, BUT RATHER MAKING THEMSELVES THEIR OWN,,, MASTERS FOR LIFE.

FOR THIS REASON AS SCRIPTURE SAYS,,, MANY DISCIPLES OR SO CALLED DISCIPLES,,,RETURN TO THEIR FORMER SINFUL LIFE AND NO LONGER FOLLOW JESUS. JESUS TURNED TO PETER AND IN SPIRIT ALSO ASKS US,,, “DO YOU ALSO WANT TO LEAVE.”

BEFORE YOU ANSWER ,,,,CONSIDER THIS,,, JESUS IS THE ONLY ONE SET APART BY THE FATHER TO MAKE ALL OF THE PROMISES OF RECONCILIATION AND LIFE COME TRUE,,,,, BECAUSE HE IS THE ONE WHO WAS THE SACRIFICIAL LAMB THAT RESTORED US TO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY TRINITY. HE IS THE BREAD COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,,, THE BREAD OF LIFE.

DO WE ANSWER WITH PETER,,, “MASTER TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE. “ “WE BELIEVE AND ARE CONVINCED,,, THAT YOU ARE THE HOLY ONE OF GOD. +++AMEN