

“Cannot”s In The Bible

Sunday PM 06/13/21

Introduction:

There are certain things that just cannot be. We sometimes want to things that are diametrically opposed to each other. We want our children to grow up but stay the same, you cannot line up in a straight circle, you cannot line up alphabetically according to height, etc. Reminds me of an article "Found --A Preacher To Suit All"

Found - - A Preacher To Suit All

At last, the perfect preacher has been found. After hundreds of years, a model preacher has been found to suit everyone. He preaches exactly 20 minutes and then sits down. His lessons are deep and shallow. He condemns sin, but he never hurts anyone's feelings.

He works from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. in every type or work, from preaching to custodial service. He makes \$60.00 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books regularly, has a nice family, drives a good car and gives \$30.00 a week to the church. He also stands ready to contribute to every good work that comes along.

He is 26 years old, has been preaching 30 years, and was 55 his last birthday. He is tall and short, thin and heavy-set, and handsome. He has one brown eye and one blue one. He parts his hair in the middle. The left side is dark and straight; the right side is brown and wavy. He wears a mustache only on the right side of his upper lip, with the other side bare.

He works tirelessly with teenagers, and spends all his time with older folks. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humor that is keeping him seriously dedicated to his work.

He makes 15 calls a day on church members, visits all the sick in the hospitals and at home even when he doesn't know they are sick. He spends all his time evangelizing the "unchurched," and is never out of his office. He is not married but his wife is a wonderful helper in his work and is well loved by the whole church. He has no children, but his kids are the meanest ones in the church! He expects nothing from those in his Bible classes, but the members where he preaches are the best Bible students in the area. (Author unknown with some revisions and additions by jpn).

In the Bible we read of things that cannot be. By cannot we mean they will not be.

I) One Cannot Serve Two Masters at The Same Time

Luke 16:11 "Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? 12 "And if you have not been faithful

in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own? 13 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

A) We are often having to choose who or what we are going to serve.

1. What does it mean to serve or be a servant?
2. Dictionary. com gives the following -- to act as a servant, wait on tables, to be useful of, work for.
 - a. There are choices we must make in life that determines who or what we are going to serve.
 - b. The Apostle Paul decided he was going to be a servant of Christ,

Romans 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Titus 1:1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness,

Philemon 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved friend and fellow laborer,

- c. One cannot serve two masters at the same time.
3. **Luke 16.13** is speaking about faithfulness. Which master are you going to be faithful to?

B) Are we going to serve the world or God?

1. This choice is mutually exclusive.

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.
2. To serve God means to place Him first in our lives and do what He says.

- a. Faithfulness requires total obedience, all the time.
- b. No such thing as partial obedience.

II) Cannot Put Your Hand To The Plow While Looking Back,

Luke 9:57 *Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." 58 And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." 59 Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." 60 Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." 61 And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." 62 But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

A) Looking back hinders us from going forward

1. Have you ever tried to plant a field while looking behind you? Causes the row to not be straight.
2. I know there are times we remember the past and learn from those events but in this case, Jesus is talking about letting the past hinder our obedience to Him.

B) To obey Christ, we cannot

1. Allow past relationships to hinder our obedience to Him. Specifically, He is talking about burying one's parents or saying good bye to one's relatives.
2. We all have "baggage" that will stop us from obeying Christ, if we allow it to do so. Past sins, problems, relationships, etc. I have known Christians who were murderers, thieves, immoral, etc.
3. Do not allow the past to ruin your future.

1 Corinthians 6:9 *Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, 10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.*

III) Cannot Fellowship Light And Darkness At the Same Time,

1 Corinthians 10:19 *What am I saying then? That an idol is anything, or what is offered to idols is anything? 20 Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the table of demons.*

A) People often want to be a little holy and a little sinful at the same time

1. To be good enough to get to heaven, but not be a "saint" a pure person.
2. God is an exclusive God and requires an exclusive people.

B) Christians were trying to be in fellowship with God while fellowshiping error.

1. In this particular case it was idolatry.
 - a. Idolatry was based on superstition as opposed to knowledge of the truth.
 - b. Idolatry was often sensual and carnal as opposed to spiritual.
2. How can one claim to love the truth while endorsing error?

2 Corinthians 6:16 *And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them And walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people."*

IV) God Cannot Be Tempted By Evil,

James 1:13 *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.*

A) People have blamed God for their sins

1. Sinful nature, God made me this way, or God puts stumbling blocks in my way.
2. At the same time the Bible tells us that God does not want us to sin, he does not provoke us to sin.

B) God allows temptation but does not make us sin

1. God tested Abraham
2. God gives us freedom of choice and we decide what we will do.
3. God is pure and does not sin; therefore, He never wants or desires us to sin. He places no evil characteristics in us, He does not make us sin.

V) **Unless One Is Born Again, He Cannot Enter The Kingdom of God,**

John 3:3 *Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* 4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

A) **Different ways to salvation are taught in the religious world.**

1. One is saved by Mohammad, Buddha, Jesus.
2. One is saved by grace only, faith only; one must believe, one must repent, etc.
3. There are some who believe any method or plan of salvation is enough to save you.

B) **Jesus says one cannot enter heaven without being born again**

1. He is talking about a spiritual and not physical rebirth.
2. Two elements: water and the Spirit.
3. Paul describes this in **Ephesians 5.26** *"the washing of water by the word"* in **Titus 3.5** *"not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,"*
 - a. The Holy Spirit is involved. He came to reveal all truth, He inspired the Apostles and prophets.
 - b. What they taught was due to the Holy Spirit.
 - c. They taught the Gospel of Christ; they taught one must be baptized in order be saved. **Acts 2:38** *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

4. A person who believes Jesus to be the Son of God, repents of their sins, confesses Jesus, and is baptized for the remission of sins, is born again. A spiritual creature different from the old man. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Conclusion:

Do not get yourself into a "cannot" situation. You can put God first in your life, you can look at the future and not the past, you can be in the light, you can be free of sin, you can be born again and have the hope of heaven.