

“A Case Of Mistaken Identity” *John 8:21-30*

Joseph graciously reconciled with his brothers who sold him into slavery and the Lord Jesus Christ’s death reconciled all of us to God.

But to the Pharisees, Jesus is a fraud, a liar, a Sabbath-breaking blasphemer Who somehow thinks He is the Son of God, making Himself equal to God; an obvious case of mistaken identity.

They missed Him because they didn’t understand because they didn’t want to understand His true identity; the fact that He voluntarily gave up the outward appearance of God but not the inner essence of God in becoming a man.

At the Virgin Birth, Jesus was born without Adam’s original sin or a resultant sin nature; He had entered this world through His own free-will.

During His 33 years on earth, Jesus used His free-will constantly and even though His temptations were greater than any we have ever had or ever will have and even though they became greater as He came ever closer to the cross, He never committed even one act of personal sin!

And He left the world by an act of His own free-will also, Jesus Christ is the only human being who ever did so apart from suicide!.

Jesus’ divine attributes were functional as His omniscience knew what the Pharisees were thinking but He did not use His omniscience independently of the Father’s plan; His humanity depended on the Holy Spirit and this was just too much for the religious legalistic Pharisees to handle.

Jesus just didn’t fit the Pharisee’s mold of Messiah because He was unselfish and He didn’t use the attributes of His divine nature to benefit Himself, provide for Himself, glorify Himself or act independently of the plan of God by compromising the pioneer or prototype spiritual life.

The Pharisees mistook the identity of Jesus for a deceiver because they didn’t understand that God

is infinitely and eternally perfect and a perfect God can only devise a perfect plan with a perfect Savior.

The Pharisees couldn’t conceive that the divine omnipotence that was available to the humanity of Christ during His Incarnation has now become available to every believer.

And without using what God has provided in grace, there is no way we can take our imperfections, our sincerity, our sentimental emotion or our good deeds and even come close to executing the plan of God and that astounded the Pharisees!

No matter how impressive they might be to fellow man, human standards which promote human good production are not acceptable to God ever because they result in nothing but dead works that will not save mankind even though they may appear great to others and

therefore, they are condemned by God as the basis of His judgement in two categories:1) For the unbeliever at the last or Great White Throne judgement in Rev 20:11-15 and2) For the believer at the Judgement Seat of Christ in 1st Cor 3:11-16; 2nd Cor 5:10 and Rom 14:10.

Human standards thrive in the sin nature, so they only produce carnality that God describes as ‘filthy rags.’

Human standards motivated the religious Pharisees to think they could work their way into Heaven

which is an impossibility.

Human standards are actually satanic standards and one of Satan’s favorite strategies is his spreading

of a social ‘Do unto others’ Gospel along with his desire for world peace without spiritual restoration and

his push for internationalism.

Satan would love to rid the world of war and get the credit for it.

God’s answer to foolish, futile human standards is His divine viewpoint thinking through His Word circulating in the minds of His Royal Family.

It’s so easy for any of us to be drawn into a system that appears to be outwardly and even inwardly good in which we think we’re doing something wonderful for God but actually we’re fighting against God’s plan, something all too common in Christian activism today.

We must understand how doing good relates to our impact: Are we here to be visible heroes with a noticeable public glorification of God? NO; we are here post-salvation to have invisible impact and our greatest impact is with the angels, not with people.

Our experiential success depends on the relationship of our good to our spiritual condition, our spiritual momentum and our spiritual advancement status.

We can only bear fruit with a consistent post-salvation biblical rehabilitation; we must have spiritual growth from the correct teachable humble mental attitude.

Fruit bearing is production using divine standards, not independently of but as a result of the filling of

the Holy Spirit and consistent advance in the spiritual life.

Producing using divine standards demands having right priorities and right priorities are consistent divine viewpoint of life which originates from learning, believing and applying biblical truth.

Divine standard production is primarily related to the mature believer but it can also be

the production
of a growing believer and it's the maximum or most effective production a believer can
have in this life.

In eternity past, God knew how much biblical truth we would have at any moment, so He prefabricated all the divine good that He knew we would produce and entered this information into His computer of divine decrees in a file with each of our names on it.

So, the good news is: If we acquire maximum biblical truth in our souls, we'll produce things

in this life which will be rewardable in eternity; guaranteed!

When we are faced with personal or historic disaster, we must be able to cope with such problems from our own personal soul inventory of biblical truth.

In personal versus corporate disaster, we're isolated and cannot depend on the fresh recommendations of others, so a believer who learns biblical truth in normal times will build up a soul inventory of powerful, applicable, divine grace solutions from which he can draw making him spiritually self-sustained which leads him to a personal sense of his own destiny, causing him to maintain stable control of his life and continue to make good decisions from his very own position of strength, his fortified soul fortress!