



October 23, 2009

Dear Friends:

FICKLED FAITHFULNESS

Contrary to pop culture, the Marines did not invent that "Looking for a few good men" catchphrase, and although for centuries ladies have been busy on the same quest, they too are behind the curve.

Solomon, in Proverbs 20: 6 says, "Many a man proclaims his own loving-kindness and goodness, but a faithful man who can find?" (AMP). Additionally, Brother Paul in 1 Corinthians 4:2 states, "Moreover, it is [essentially] required of stewards that a man should be found faithful [proving himself worthy of trust]" (AMP). The key word in both testaments is faithful and it is obvious that God is looking for faithful folks, too.

Just on my TV, wrapped in a pompous package of pontificating bull, was one of the professional "Reverends". It seems that those of his ilk need the attention like you and I need air. And, as often as the dear brother in question always seems to be so concerned with getting his face on the tube, you just have to wonder if he ever has time for the wife and kids.

With all of the available news outlets, cable programs and opinion panels, I find I'm always in some kind of a quasi "Hold your breath mode" when it is announced that another "Reverend" will be interviewed. For many of the interviews, the proclaimed mouthpiece representative of the Gospel is more of a hack and a shill than a sane, "this is the way, walk in it" ambassador of wise Kingdom principles.

More times than not, they are either from the kook, "Coexist" bumper sticker crowd or they're the guys who always seem to be working an angle.

In a generous gesture on my part, I will surmise that, perhaps at some point in their lives that they had a genuine heart change experience and embraced the Call but, somewhere along the way, they forgot why they got into this thing. And, in the process of their "ministry quest", the focus gradually changed. The sweet "Jesus Loves Me" childhood moments eventually gave way to the strains of "We're In The Money".

A few years ago, I was closely privy to a statement made by a media minister type. The gist of the statement was, "we love a controversy, we love it because the money flows in when we are attacked or attacking".

Recently, I watched one Rev. talk fervently about some poor mistreated folks and how our Big Brother government should enact further confiscatory tax actions to finance his cause. It was a blistering indictment laced with pop psychology and some evangelistic "What Would Jesus Do" jargon thrown in to keep it sounding Christian.

Some of them have made a good living by keeping the constant "Enemy Project" on the front burners. It is profitable. They intimidate and insinuate to get the corporate jet rides, corporate donations and top floor Presidential Suites for their missions of mercy. Many of the "contributions" are more like shakedowns to keep a "just in case" protection barrier from potential protest and bad publicity. Many, unashamedly, will use any tool necessary to get the job done. Vintage Al Capone.

I once witnessed the tactic when invited under the guise to talk about one thing but I'd seen enough cowboy movies to recognize an ambush. I got to hear a, "I wouldn't want to make any trouble for you, but here is what I expect you to do" type speech. Complete with scriptural references of demanded submission and expected compliance, it sounded holy but a few moments in, the revelation light came on and the scam was clearly exposed although any moment I was expecting to hear something about an "offer I couldn't refuse". Not a faithful possibility in sight.

In all of our faithless, challenging moments, it is vitally necessary that we seek out and cling to the Truths and the Words that we can look to and mark as Faithful. Those Words can only come from the precious One whose Word is actually called "Faithful".

Throughout his letters, Paul clearly states, "These are faithful words...these are faithful sayings...This is a faithful truth". They Faithful because they are intertwined, connected to and fully supported by THE FAITHFUL ONE. His Message has been found trustworthy, keeping and dependable...FAITHFUL to the test of time. The Scriptures tell us, "He is Faithful and true and He will protect us, keep us, provide for us, complete us and save us ... Faithful is He!" Set your life to these words! Remember, the Faithful One will be Faithful to those who will remain Faithful to Him! The Father is seeking such.

Today, we are constantly inundated with all sorts of opinions, threats, problems and controversies. To add more confusion to the clamor, we are also not at a lack of willing voices to scream, direct or opine. Many are not faithful voices and though void of even a modicum of Godly revelational sagacity, they are always ready to talk, pronounce themselves as experts and sound official. Sometimes we just have to pray for discernment and lower the volume to lock in on what is true and faithful. Even the Christian packages need to go through the Holy Spirit x-ray machine. The inspection process won't harm the genuine. That's when the Faithful "Real Deal" shines through again and again.

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