

The Old Paths

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“Jesus Marvelled”

Jarrod Jacobs

The occasions on which Jesus marvelled are quite rare in the Bible. In fact, there are only two occasions recorded for us in the Bible in which Christ marvelled. On one occasion, Jesus marvelled at a person’s faith. On another occasion, Jesus marvelled at some people’s unbelief. Let us read the record of these two occasions and then make some applications to our lives.

Jesus marvelled at one’s faith when He was in Capernaum: “*And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel*” (Matt. 8:5-10; parallel account: Lk. 7:1-10).

Jesus marvelled at His own people’s unbelief when He was in Nazareth: “*And he went out from thence, and came into his own*

country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching” (Mk. 6:1-6).

As Jesus looks upon you and me today, **WHY** does Jesus marvel? Is it because of our belief or our unbelief? I believe the answer to this question will be determined by our attitude toward our physical and spiritual life.

Concerning Physical Life

When looking at the way I live, does Jesus marvel at my belief or unbelief? Do I believe the words of Jesus who said, “*Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*” (Matt. 7:13-14)? Or am I

living as I want to? Do I truly believe Jesus’ words when He said, “*seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*” (Matt. 6:33)?

Many do not believe these words. How do I know? It is apparent by their ACTIONS (Matt. 7:16). Too many claim to love God and His word, but then live like the Devil. They are too busy living for themselves and for the “now” to be interested in laying up treasures in Heaven and putting Jesus first (Matt. 6:19-21). Some wear immodest clothing (It is not limited to the warmer seasons, anymore!), thus showing that they do not care about what the word of God says concerning men and women wearing “*modest apparel*” (I Tim. 2:9-10; I Pet. 3:1-3; Matt. 5:28). Rather than dressing in a way to be CHASTE, they are dressing in a way to be CHASED!!! Does this sound like you? Me?

Many are dishonest (Col. 3:9). Others ruin their bodies through drinking, drugs, smoking, and other things which may be “legal” for public consumption, yet condemned by God. If we are truly living by faith, we will want to do nothing that is contrary to Scripture, and do nothing which will harm ourselves or others. As Jesus looks upon His people today, does he marvel at our belief or our unbelief??

Concerning Spiritual Life

Too few people realize that man is basically composed of two parts, the body and the spirit (Jas. 2:26). Paul said, “*Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day*” (II Cor. 4:16). Yes friends, we have an inward man (soul) which demands our care and attention just like the outward man (body) does! As Jesus looks upon my soul, would He marvel at my belief or my unbelief?

Many people today have not been

saved from their sins. Why is this? It is because they heard the words of Jesus who said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" and decided that they would not do it (Mk. 16:16). They are like Agrippa, Felix, and others who decided they would not believe Jesus' words that bring life everlasting (Acts 24:25, 26:28). When Jesus looks at you and looks at me, WHY does He marvel??

Other people may have followed Christ's plan for salvation initially, but soon fall away like those in Matthew 13:22 who heard God's word, but allowed the cares of this world to choke out the word in their heart before it had a chance to really take root. When it comes to living a godly, faithful life, would Jesus marvel at my belief? Jesus told the church in Smyrna to "*be thou faithful unto (to the point of) death, and I shall give thee a crown of life*" (Rev. 2:10). Do we allow the cares and problems of this world to choke out the word of God from our hearts? I wonder sometimes. When we allow material things and worldly pursuits to keep us from pleasing God and keeping ourselves pure, our spiritual life will suffer!

Conclusion

While Jesus was upon this earth, He marvelled at the sight of certain people. This was a commendation to some, but a condemnation to others. When Jesus looks at you and at me, does He marvel at all we do to please Him, or does He marvel at all we are doing that is contradictory to His will?

"A pessimist is someone who complains about the noise when opportunity knocks."

—Leslie E. Sloan

"PREACH THE WORD"

Jarrold Jacobs

Paul wrote to Timothy, and said, "*I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*" (II Tim. 4:1-2). At times, it is good to remind ourselves what is involved in preaching. May these lines below help us appreciate what Paul meant when he wrote to Timothy, telling him to preach the word "*in season, out of season.*"

When the battles rage (II Cor. 10:5)
- "*preach the word...*"

When peace abounds (Acts 9:31)
- "*preach the word...*"

When we are weary (Gal. 6:9)
- "*preach the word...*"

When we are strong (Phil. 4:13)
- "*preach the word...*"

When we are loved (Ezek. 33:32)
- "*preach the word...*"

When we are hated (Jn. 15:18)
- "*preach the word...*"

Where there is national turmoil (Judg. 6:8-10) - "*preach the word...*"

When the nations of the world love us

(Lk. 6:26) - "*preach the word...*"

When economics are depressed (II Kings 6:19-33) - "*preach the word...*"

When we are "increased with goods" (I Tim. 6:17-19) - "*preach the word...*"

When we are tempted not to (II Tim. 4:3-4) - "*preach the word...*"

When friends/family are in sin (Matt. 10:37) - "*preach the word...*"

When we are by ourselves (II Tim. 4:16)
- "*preach the word...*"

When "all men" love it (II Tim. 4:2) - "*preach the word...*"

When we are old (Philemon 9)
- "*preach the word...*"

When we are young (Jer. 1:7-10) - "*preach the word...*"

When we know it will not be appreciated (Ezek. 3:8-9) - "*preach the word...*"

When others introduce a "better way" to "win folks" (Gal. 1:8-9)
- "*preach the word...*"

When it means being fired (Mk. 8:36-37)
- "*preach the word...*"

When it means having to quit our jobs (Matt. 6:33) - "*preach the word...*"

When it means losing our lives (Rev. 2:10; Mk. 8:35) - "*preach the word...*"

Spreading the gospel is not for the faint-of-heart! Let us take our work in the Lord seriously in 2003 (I Cor. 15:58)!

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