

## **“Your View of Things”** **By Brother Kenneth Ray** **Sunday, August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

A little boy had a question. He went to his mother and asks, “Mom, where did we come from?” His mother replies, “We came from God; he made us in His image.” The little boy receives his mother’s answer and leaves on his way. He comes across his father, so he asks his dad the same question, “Where did we come from?” The father replies, “From apes. We have evolved over the years from apes to the humans of today.” The little boy receives his father’s answer and goes off, to once again come across his mom. He says, “Mom, I’m very confused.” Mom replies, “Why?” He says, “Well, you say that we come from God, but Dad says we come from apes. Which one is it?” His mother, seeing his dilemma, smiled and replied, “Well, when you asked me where we come from, and I replied, I was talking about my side of the family, but your father was talking about his.”

Jesus had a similar dilemma in the Book of Mark.

*Mark 8:27-28 ...Whom do men say that I am?...*

Some of you are familiar with this question, but for the benefit of all, Jesus asked His disciples, “*Whom do men say that I am?*” Some of the replies were John the Baptist, some say Elias, others one of the prophets. So, in verse 29, Jesus asks a second question:

*Mark 8:29 ...But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto Him, Thou art the Christ.*

Have you ever heard it said that you should always go with your first answer?

*Matthew 16:16 ...Thou art the Christ, the SON of the Living God.*

Two groups, two questions, two answers. Why the difference? Two words: The relationship. The first question was, whom do men say that Jesus is. Note that the answers were many. The second question was, “*But whom say ye that I am?*” One reply: “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” Unlike the first time, Jesus did not respond to this answer with another question, but with a statement: “*Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*”

I will tell you plain and simple, the difference in the two answers is found in the relationship of the one answering and his/her relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It all depends upon their point of view, based on the relationship that they had with Jesus.

We’re all hurting; we’re all going through things. That’s the same for everyone. Who do you say that Jesus is? Be sure of your answer. One reply is that He is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus was only looking for the one reply.

In the military, sometimes you will have someone ask you, “Have you cleaned the shop?” and you tell them, “The shop is all cleaned up.” And they ask again, “Have you cleaned the shop?” After a while, you get the message that there’s about to be a big inspection, and the shop needs to be ready.

When we tell a lie, we know that’s a bad thing. If we tell a white lie, one where nobody gets hurt, that’s not so bad. If we kill somebody, that’s really bad. The Bible says that sin is sin,

though. We see varying degrees of sins because we look at it through our own natural eyes. If we look at it through God's eyes, from His point of view, then we see things differently.

You may hear a sermon, and say, "That sermon should have covered *this*, and so you decide that it wasn't a good sermon. God's going to cover what you need. Maybe that wasn't in there because you didn't need to hear it, this time. A month later, you may hear a different sermon on the same topic but it may cover different points, because the needs have changed. You know, I've watched a lot of safety videos, and it seems like there's always one guy that says, "I've done this a thousand times, I don't know why this one time should be any different," as he sits in the burn ward of the hospital. I've never yet seen a safety video where somebody said, "Even though I've done this a thousand times, I treat it like it's the very first time I do it, each time that I do it." Sometimes we know what to do, but we don't follow through with it. The wisdom of man is not the wisdom of God.

Most people know one of two Jesus's. A Jesus that is turning over the tables, running the moneychangers out, and declaring, "**My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.**" (Matthew 21:12-13) The same Jesus put Jonah in the belly of a fish for three days for being disobedient. Or, a Jesus who showed compassion, and, when Jonah did repent, released Jonah from the belly of the fish, and used him to see a city repent at the preaching of God's Word. A Jesus who forgave the adulterous woman, and told her, "**Go and sin no more.**" Most people think of Jesus as one or the other, but God is one.

*John 4:24      God is a Spirit...*

He is what you need when you need it. If you ever wonder why it is that you have to earn everything the hard way, let me just tell you that it's you. God doesn't want you to have to learn the hard way. If you learn from your mistakes and cry out to Jesus, He has compassion. We're disrespectful to God when we don't let our light shine.

Some may ask the question, "If God is so good, why do all these bad things happen? Reconciliation. When we see the man in the ditch, God wants us to do like the Samaritan did, and take care of that man, otherwise, God will rain thunder down upon you.

*Hebrews 12:6-10      For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son...*

That's even painful to say.

*John 3:16      For God so loved the world...*

Here is the thing: Just as in the story of Jonah, aside from how you feel about it or your point of view about it, Jesus has a mission for each of us to accomplish. It starts with baptism in Jesus' name; we endure hardship; we give thanks and receive the lesson, blessing, or benefit others. Jesus is all about restoring/ reconciliation to save the lost and to restore the saved.

*Psalms 51:10-17      ... Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation...*

I will admit that my feelings get the best of me sometimes. Feelings don't matter if you have the right point of view. Jesus asks, "Whom say ye that I am?" What's your point of view? Will you allow Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, to be Lord of your life?