

April 12, 1994 Boston

The Gospel

Notes for the Billy Graham Paper

Introduction

Matthew 9 tells the story of the two blind men. He asked them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" Faith was welling up in their hearts, it belonged to them. They had heard all about this Messiah, this healer, and God Himself spoke to these two blind men that if they wanted to be saved this man could do it.

(When I was being saved something was welling up in my heart. All I could do was be lead by what I read in the Bible. Then I came to the Body.)

Yahshua presented what faith is. If you have money and property faith is like Proverbs 13:8, "The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor hears no threat." To have life the rich man must give up all his abundance, but these words are no threat to the poor man, he has no wealth to give up. However, he too must give up his life.

If a man is in a death threatening situation he can give all that he has as a ransom. One with nothing but his life can only give his life. Your life equals your possessions, the two are locked together (only death can part them). The word translated fellowship in Acts 2:42 is actually koinonia in the Greek language, meaning distribution. The teaching Distribution of Jan.7,1993 touches on this.

{ **Koinonia** is number 2842 in Strong's Concordance: partnership, i.e. (lit.) participation, or social intercourse, or (pecuniary — of, or involving money) benefaction: to communicate, communion [Communion, or making common what one possesses, is the emphasis on the Gospel is Community teaching of Feb. 28, 1979, that has already mailed to you], distribution, fellowship. Benefaction means the act of doing good or helping others, especially the giving of money for the purpose of love. }

Ananias and Sapphira were types of what happened to those who did not surrender all. (Not, as many Christians claim them to be, the proof that the church in Jerusalem did not surrender all their possessions.)

The Gospel

It is essential that one knows for sure and for certain what the Messiah's words meant when He spoke them to the multitudes, to His disciples, and to his apostles who were in training to preach the Kingdom of God and establish the Edah after His resurrection and ascension.

The most powerful and effective words He spoke concerning one's salvation (in order to have a relationship with Him), which one must actually obey are recorded in Mark 8 and Mark 10.

These are the things someone must do in order to have eternal life: Mark 8:34,35 and Mark 10:28-30. You must lose your life and family and property and possessions just as Luke 14:33 says. You must believe and obey as in John 3:36 (refers to belief and obedience as in Matt.10:37,38 — vs.37 is the test of vs.3). This is the criterion for the faith that one must obey by which we are saved Rom.10:17. Faith comes by hearing the gospel and requires obedience Rom.10:16; Matt.28:20 to determine if they have the faith to be baptized into Messiah's Body and receive His Spirit as a seal of faith. Saving faith must be based on the gospel's requirement for salvation which is the criterion or standard, rule, test on which a judgment or decision can be based. Mark 10:28-30 is the means of judging Mark 8:34,35; Lk.14:26,33, qualified by Acts 2:44 — 4:32-35. The faith Paul preached about in Rom.10:1. Unless the gospel presents a criterion for the faith by which one is saved there can be no salvation Luke 18:8. Christianity (traditional gospel) offers no criterion upon which faith is determined. All the scriptures in the gospel accounts which pertain to a criterion is no longer necessary to obey — as Luke 14:33; Matt.10:37; Luke 14:26, etc. is no longer in context with the church today. Mark 10:28-30 would actually be silly to even require for a criterion for faith. There is no criterion for faith today Mal.1:10; 3:3; 3:18 (4:6 — If the hearts aren't restored, He will smite the land with a curse.) If the father's heart is not turned toward his offspring, the offering is despised by God. Such is faith

without substance — a criterion for judgment for judgment — a test for faith as in Acts 2:39-41 — they were cut to the heart in vs.37 and received faith and were baptized.

Luke 14:33 — There is no other way to be a disciple of His and have eternal life unless one does this for His sake and the gospel's sake. This is what it means to believe in Him. The word believe as John meant it was what one must do in order to have eternal life or else they would prove they did not believe in Him, that they had not received faith to trust in Him to obey His word: John 3:36. Belief and obedience can not be separated into compartments (as distinct things of differing value). Matthew 28:19,20 meant everything Messiah spoke that is recorded in the Gospels, the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — Eph 1:13 (including all the so-called hard sayings He commanded).

John 8:51 and 31, a disciple is one who has and is obeying His word — is saved and is being saved Acts 2:47. Luke 14:33 — To follow Him meant attachment to Him, as 1 Cor 6:17 — joined to Messiah, one spirit with Him — anything less than this means you don't have eternal life. Strong's — 190 — Union with — Without separation between Messiah or His people Jn.13:34,35; 1 Jn.3:14,23; Jn.17:20,21.

2 Pet. 1:4 says that we become partakers of the divine nature, sealed with His spirit until the day of redemption, Eph 1:13,14. What does that mean? It means until our bodies are redeemed. They are the last thing to be redeemed. We have to be restored in the Body.

Matt 19:28 is spoken to, "you, my followers," or "you having followed Me," as verse 29 explains. (You know Him, you are one with him. You are not going to lose your fellowship with Him over a cheap thrill.) You who have forsaken (left) all on account of me (for My name's sake). Whoever has forsaken all, who left houses, etc. Acts 4:32 confirms all who had anything to sell sold it and gave the money to the brotherhood. No one kept anything back who lived, Acts 5:1-10. (Heb 13:7 — So, whose faith do you want to imitate?)

No one had any need, Acts 4:32-37, all things were common property. (Mark 10:29-30) Proverbs 13:8 is all that a man has. If no one had property or possession or even family they were exempt from rebuke and threat. (Luke 14:26) Matt 10:37 — Family ties are very strong in some cultures

like Brazil, but not so strong in America. (There we had so many people right on the verge of being saved, people who would give up everything except for mother. She wouldn't let them enter into salvation, and she rules the family.)

Whatever else one has, all have a life to give up, to hate. John 12:25 — You have to hate your life in this world. This shows a complete separation from the world as the Messiah taught them in John 17:15-18, to be in the world but not of it. They were to be baptized into the Body of Messiah, 1 Cor 12:12,13 and Eph 2:12. There is no other gospel than this, anything less than the capitulation Luke 14:31-32 teaches makes verse 33 impossible to understand. Messiah is that greater King, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, of Rev 17:14 (with His faithful followers) and Rev 19:11-21. The gospel must be as 2 Cor 5:15 says it is to accomplish this.

To be saved means to come into fellowship with Him, the coming King, while he is still far off, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit given to us — baptism, Acts 2:38. This is the gift to all who repent and are baptized for the forgiveness of their sins. These are the ones who are baptized in to name of Yahshua the Messiah for the forgiveness of their sins and they would be given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Personal Relationship with Messiah

He didn't want to make Himself known too quickly. Only after He declared Himself the Messiah in Mark 8:27 did He begin to bring His own personality forward and to speak of a man's relation to Him as determining His eternal destiny, Mark 8:34. He spoke of a man's relation to Him.

Relation means the mode in which a person is connected with another. Mode — way, method of being connected with Messiah as 1 Cor 6:17 speaks of, the only way or measure in which one can be given the Holy Spirit and come into relationship with God the Father.

It is according to a man's relation with the Son of God that determines his own eternal security.

After Ananias and Sapphira died what they did became proverbial, so no one was ever supposed to do what they did after that without incurring the same fate. We as elders have got to do our job. Salvation begins by hearing the gospel through an ambassador (2 Cor.5:19,20 — Without an ambassador no one can come into the kingdom he represents.) and obeying Him as Rom 10:17

says — He will have no relationship with someone who has not heard the gospel through one of His ambassadors — the word of Messiah which is to be obeyed, Rom 10:16, so one can make the good confession of Rom 10:9,10,11,13, and Mark 8:35,38. Once you confess this by the Holy Spirit you are saved. (Rom 10:14-17) But not all have obeyed the gospel — verse 16.

Paul told the Jews in Acts 13:46 that they were not worthy of eternal life. You become worthy by faith. Who else could be worthy of this relation with Him without obeying the gospel? (Matthew 10:37,38) Who is worthy except one who has seen His worth first? This must be preached by one who does not have hidden things, 2 Cor 4:2-4. If one cannot see the value and worth of Messiah in relation to his own worth and worthiness — he cannot be saved, because he cannot obey His message, and how to be saved and how to have eternal life is still a mystery to him Mark 10:17-30.

In Acts 13:46 those deserving of eternal life believed. Our worth comes only from faith which is coming to know Messiah's worth and repenting so as to come into relation to Him. The word worthy is (514 — Greek) deserve as Matt 10:37 says is to see Him as desirable (We become compatible, comparable, suitable to Him as Eph.1:23 says). His glory is revealed to you — His worth and He is desirable — that He is worth seeking and giving up your life for, giving it to Him, Mark 8:34,35. Only then would he be saved by Messiah. "No one is worthy of me or deserves eternal life if they do not see Me as desirable enough to give up life, family, possessions, etc., to have."

Matt 10:37 — deserve, to be worthy of, to have a right to 1 Jn.5:12. Remember, Messiah said this. He was not teaching works salvation, was He? His words are deserving full acceptance (they merit that, they are worthy of that). We believed and are saved, Messiah died and rose again according to the Scriptures. Matt 10:37,38 leaves no one out who has father, mother, son, or daughter as Mark 8:35 and 10:29-30 says — which is what is required in order to know that you do believe unto eternal life, John 3:15.

John was fully aware as also Paul what true faith was, Eph 2:5,8,9. Rom 3 and 4, faith is hearing Messiah speak to you what you must do in order to have Him, to be worthy of Him, deserving of

Him. (John 2:23-25) If a person is not worthy of eternal life after hearing the gospel they pass judgment on themselves, John 3:18. One makes himself unworthy of eternal life, having refuted the words of God, Acts 13:45. To hear the word of God and reject it one makes himself richly deserving of the second death and not deserving of divine life. If one loves anything else more than Messiah he is not worthy of Him and is deserving of the second death, for why was he not able to entrust himself to those who believed in John 2:23?

Why did so many, especially in the past, leave the Edah claiming to believe? In John 2:23-25 He knew that they would not obey Him even though they believed. They left because they were not willing to obey Him — John 3:36 — not to obey Him is an open denial of Him.

As time went on Messiah gradually revealed who He was and this Messiahship to Israel and the message grew to be specific what faith in Him really meant. Whoever is it that shall lose his life for Me and the gospel will save it. This is the relationship one must have to Him — if you have eternal life. Nothing less can be accepted, the Spirit was not to be entrusted to one with any less faith in Him than Mark 8:35,38; Matt 10:32,33; Mark 10:28-30; Matt 8:22 and 19:21 say (19:17 — 5046 in Greek — Complete in what you must do to have eternal life.)

Matt 19:21 says one must perfectly obey Him in order to be worthy of eternal life, that is, to have the faith in Him to sacrifice his own life and family and possessions. Perfect, completed faith requires completed obedience to the gospel. One cannot be in complete obedience to the gospel if the whole gospel has not been heard. We must not weaken the gospel by being ashamed of it. Luke 12:33,34 — One's treasure must be Him. We had better make sure Luke 16:9 is upheld in situations like Anak's mother where she wants to be saved now that her husband is dying. If we don't the obedience of the faith will not result, Rom.1:5; Luke 16:9 and 14:33; Acts 2:45 and 4:34; Matt 6:20, and there will be obedience just in principle Titus 3:5,6. To obey the gospel as Mark 8:35 says one must have heard it from one as 2 Cor 4:1-4 and John 7:18 says, in order for the hearer to know verse 17.

Acts 2:42 — They were devoted to these things. A synonym is addicted. Fellowship is koinonia, they were building up, not tearing down. Whatever good they had to communicate (to make common) they did.

The right thing (James 4:17) to do is to encourage your brother daily, Heb. 3:13. We must be doing everything we can to maintain the unity of believers or else we are bringing people into relationship with God we ourselves don't have. (Acts 2:25, 4:34; and Matt 6:20)

Comments

Yonah: Christians are taught His words don't merit full acceptance. Only those who desire to be saved will give them that. They are the only ones who are worthy.

Kephir: 2 Cor 5:14,15 — We'll be overwhelmed by His love if we have faith. There will be nothing to hold us back if we have faith, not possessions, not the cares of making a living, not anything.

Daniel: Everything He said is the gospel. We have to not be ashamed of any of it, Rom 1:16.

Yoneq: We have to communicate the gospel with the same skill as our Master. The people who hear us have to see His glory. Rom 1:17 — This is how the righteous live.

Yakin: We heard the gospel, faith began to be communicated to us and we had to pursue our Master like the two blind men.

Kephir: We have seen our Master's worth.

Yoneq: Matt 9:26-27 — The blind men had heard of Yahshua and they cried out to Him to save them. Verse 28 — He wanted to see if they had faith. V. 29 — Their faith welled up inside of them.

Yonah: Those men had to push through some obstacles to reach our Master.

Yoneq: It is so wonderful He put that little bit in the Bible that we could draw out its meaning and tell stories from it, to really communicate the heart of what happened.

Lo-Nekar: The rich young ruler had good works, he had everything. What did he lack? Faith. He had more trust in his money than Messiah's words.

Hakam (via a letter about the Billy Graham paper sent to David Zerubbabel): A man's faith comes by hearing the gospel that Paul preached. His, Messiah's faith (Eph 3:15), causes us to hear His word so we can believe it.

Racham: It is what Dysfunction 3 hammers on, that a person's spirit is dead to God if they have not been quickened so as to obey His word.

He'emin: It makes me so thankful He went on the cross for us, 1 Cor 15:1-4.