

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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THE WORLD NEEDS MORE MARTHAS

Larry R. Ping II

Her brother was very sick. She and her sister were frantically looking for Jesus. They knew He could really help. But alas, their brother died which caused great grief for the residents of Bethany.

Of course, we are writing of Lazarus, Mary, and Martha (John 11). We know the story very well. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead after having been in the grave for four days. It must have been an amazing scene to witness.

But there was a conversational exchange between Martha and Jesus which often is overlooked, and there are great lessons which can be extracted from it.

Martha, upon Jesus' arrival, said *"Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died"* (Jn. 11:21). To which Jesus replied, *"Thy brother shall rise again"* (Jn. 11:23).

I do not know about you, but when I place myself in the shoes of Martha, having

known the history of the miracles of Jesus, I think I might just be thinking Jesus is going to physically raise Lazarus from the dead. But notice the response of Martha. *"I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day"* (Jn. 11:24).

I have long been impressed Martha's first thought and inclination was *spiritual* in nature, and not *physical*. It is an absolutely amazing example of maintaining spiritual composure under the direst and saddest of circumstances.

We, too, must think *spiritual* first, and leave the *physical* until later. We must ponder what sort of *spiritual* impact our decisions will have first.

On this day, may we each strive very hard and very diligently to be like Martha in this regard, always thinking *spiritually* first! Even when we are traveling on a very tough and difficult road, we must exercise spirituality. How are you doing with this

difficult challenge?

Consider some of these Bible passages emphasizing the need for us to be living spiritually minded!

*"For to be carnally minded is death; but to be **spiritually minded** is life and peace."*

(Rom. 8:6)

*"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**"*

(Rom. 14:17)

*"And did all drink the same **spiritual drink**: for they drank of that **spiritual Rock** that followed them: and that **Rock was Christ**"*

(I Cor. 10:4).

*"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by **Jesus Christ**"*

(I Pet. 2:5).

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

ACTING ON ONE'S BELIEF

Larry R. Ping II

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (Jn. 3:16-18).

One of the most beloved verses known (Jn. 3:16) to man is also one of the most misused. Many want to see the “love of God” in this verse while simultaneously dumping the “responsibility of man” out of it.

The “belief” spoken of in these words of the Christ is an all-encompassing belief. It is not a mere mental acceptance that Jesus is the Son of God. It is also not a simple emotional recognition of Jesus as my personal Savior. No, my friends, it is much more than that!

One needs not to read any other book of God’s Precious and Divine Word than Acts to see that this belief of which the Son of God speaks is one which “leads to action” on the part of the believing individual. The Jews believed and were baptized (Acts 2:37-41). Such was also the case with Simon the sorcerer (Acts 8:13) and the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:31-33).

On this day, know and understand that believing Jesus and His Word is the driving force behind you doing all that the Lord commands. As the Son of God said, if one does not believe, he will not do as commanded, and will be condemned. If one truly believes, he will willingly, freely, and enthusiastically do as the God of Heaven commands.

The Bible makes it very clear faith is important in God’s plan of redemption. But it also is very evident faith is not enough in and of itself to grant one salvation from sin.

Ponder these passages which demonstrate this as true.

*“Even so **faith**, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”*
(Jam. 2:17)

*“Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: **the devils also believe, and tremble.**”*
(Jam. 2:19)

*“Ye see then how that by works a man is **justified**, and not by faith only.”*
(Jam. 2:24)

*“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works is dead also.**”*
(Jam. 2:26)

“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also **many believed** on him; but because of the Pharisees they **did not confess him**, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”
(Jn. 12:42-43)

HAVE YOU ACTED ON YOUR BELIEF YET?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm