

When Half & Half Is Not Desirable

(Luke 24:13-31)

When it comes to food, one of my favorites in America is Buffet Restaurant – eat all you can for one affordable price. Even some of the non-buffet places will let you have a *Half & Half*. An example is the *Tour of Italy* in Olive Garden: half-serving of chicken perm with fettuccine Alfredo and half-serving of lasagna. In the Christendom though, *half and half* is not an option to desire.

As Christians, we must be “complete” in our commitment to the Lord Jesus; our faith, conduct, and character must all perfectly align with His teachings and instructions. The Lord says in Rev 3:14-16 that those that are neither cold nor hot, He would spew out of His mouth. The story of the two on the Road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-31) illustrates how fervent believers can be *half & half* in their thinking and their walking with God. It was true then and it is still true now. The two had zeal for the Lord Jesus. They were very sad that three days had passed since the mighty Prophet and Lord was crucified. They had heard some reports that He is alive. In their sadness, Jesus joined them on the road but they did not recognize Him. “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem?” they asked Him (Luke 24:18). “Don’t you know that they crucified a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and the people? “We were hoping He would be the one to redeem Israel,” they concluded.

The problem demonstrated by these two is what I call *half & half* of faith. The disciples and believers in Christ had great zeal for the Lord. They knew the words of the prophecies concerning the Coming Messiah but only believed the part they wanted most and neglected the part about His suffering, death, & resurrection. They were concerned about the earthly kingdom and sought the time that they would be delivered from the occupation of the Romans and the kingdom reverted back to Israel (Acts 1:6). On the other hand, the Messiah came to give abundant life (John 10:10) and to free all that would believe from the power of sin and death (separation from God), Rom 6:23.

The Lord Jesus called them “foolish and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken” (Luke 24:25). Even more so today, we must, as believers of Christ, recognize that “it is not for us to know the time that God has appointed by His own authority” (Acts 1:7). We neither choose the *game* nor the *players*, God does. We simply play our assigned roles. The Most High rules in the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He chooses (Dan 4:17, 25). God chooses as He deems fit for His kingdom business; He chooses the time and the place. We all have our various parts to play (Jer 18:1-10) all to the glory of God. Spiritual gifts are for the edification of the whole body of Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that apportions them to fulfill His purpose in the Church (1 Cor 12:3-12). Manifesting the calling and power of God should not be a source of contention in the church. The harvest is indeed plenty but the laborers are few; even today.

We must stand ready to yield and work for the Master. Tradition and old-time experience and practice should be a strength; not a hindrance to serving God in truth and in spirit. God is calling the willing and He needs all of us to recommit to the great Commission. A lot is changing all over the world. Abominations are fast becoming the norm while the message of Love is being diluted. We cannot question God; in all things Christ must be made manifest. Every experience in life is to draw us closer to God. Do you lack some essentials of life, wait on the Lord for His abundance – don’t cut corners. Have you been praying and trusting the Lord for one thing or the other? Begin to minister the grace of God for patience and perseverance to others. No need can ever be great enough to warrant deviating from the teachings and principles of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In John 21:15-23, the Lord asked Peter three times whether Peter loved Him “more than these.” More than the great signs – miraculous fish catch (on 2 occasions), walking on water, witnessing the transfiguration, redemption from failing to acknowledge Jesus three times. What about the Resurrection? Just when the enemies thought they had won, Jesus rose from the dead. It would make any follower to be proud of his champion. But Jesus made known to Peter the great challenges that lie ahead. Similarly, we have a commission to go out and “make disciples of all nations.” There are challenges, unbelief, even opposition but we must persevere. We cannot allow the “baton to drop” on our watch. Every great event we have witnessed is opportunity to love Him the more and to do His will. Every avenue must be utilized to witness Christ onto others.

What was Peter’s initial reaction? The same as most of us do today. “What about this man?” he asked in reference to John, the beloved. Today we engage in so many comparatives that are not helpful to the work of the kingdom. Competition rather than cooperation, obstruction instead of aiding, negative criticism rather than positive affirmation, character assassination and outright slandering instead of glorifying God for His great works in this age. This ought not to be so. We must strive not to be deceived and destroyed by the guiles of the enemy. We must stand resolute for Jesus even if others turn away. Like our Master, we must love righteousness and hate iniquity (Heb 1:9). Finally, we must pray without ceasing that God will keep us standing to the end and be wholly committed to Christ instead of *half and half*. May His grace enable us to do so in Jesus name, amen!