AM I OFF THE HOOK?



It turns out that I was wrong.

I trusted a lie and doubted the truth.

And I am ashamed.

But do you understand how I feel, Lord?
I sincerely believed what I was told.
All my teachers and friends were committed to this thing.
Lord, how can you judge me for my ignorance?
Surely I'm off the hook!

And the Lord answers:

You ignored my counsel, to 'know them by their fruits'. You are accountable.

Adam and Eve did it.

King Solomon did it.

Judas did it.

They refused to believe the truth that was staring them in the face and chose to believe a lie.

They chose the voice of the Deceiver over the voice of God.



Christendom under judgment.

The fire of judgment is burning its way through Christendom at this hour.

Lifting the cover off dubious ministries.

Exposing secrets.

Causing closet whispers to be blasted from the housetops.

Laying the finger of judgment on everything that presumes to "improve" on the simple call of Jesus.

"Deny yourself, take up your cross daily and follow me."



Crusades.
Conspiracy theories.
Speculations.



These are all demonic dust, thrown into the eyes of the willfully blind.

Before we can call the nations to repent, we have some serious repenting of our own to do.

About this time Jesus was informed that Pilate had murdered some people from Galilee as they were offering sacrifices at the Temple. "Do you think those Galileans were worse sinners than all the other people from Galilee?" Jesus asked. "Is that why they suffered? Not at all! And you will perish, too, unless you repent of your sins and turn to God.

These people never faced their own need for repentance.



They felt secure in their "righteousness".

They were Hebrews in good standing.

They followed the traditions.

They kept the rules.

So why should they repent?

What if God sees in us what he saw in those "righteous" men?

And what about the eighteen people who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them? Were they the worst sinners in Jerusalem? No, and I tell you again that unless you repent, you will perish, too."

Luke 13

When the preacher says "Repent!" he could be trying to manipulate us.

When Jesus says, "Repent", he is calling us to come to the Banquet of Truth.



Before the door closes forever.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we repent of believing in lies and conspiracies that stir up rage, suspicion, fear, maliciousness, and self righteousness...pointing fingers at everyone else who is wrong....all feelings that are demonic dust that blind us from your truth. Lord, we aren't off the hook because we know you, we know who you are...we chose darkness over your truth, over your light, over your command to us to not be afraid. Forgive us. Help us to seek and live in your light again. Help us to let go of speculation and judgment and to simply follow you...willingly...lovingly...obediently.... trustingly...without fear... to any cross you have for us to bear. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber February 2021

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