

Not Him, the Other Guy

“Me”

(Romans 2:1; 2 Corinthians 13:5)

- Introduction:
1. Here’s the setup...
 - a. As a child, I really enjoyed it when my teacher divided the class up into two teams, consisting of boys and girls.
 - b. We would then compete in our knowledge of Bible trivia.
 1. “How many chapters are in the Bible?” – (1,189).
 2. “How many verses are in the Bible?” – (31,102).
 3. “Who was the oldest man in the Bible and how old was he?” – (Methuselah, 969).
 - c. Divide the class into two groups (male/female; left/right, front/back, however).
 - d. Commend the class for their knowledge of the Bible, but tell them you have a short quiz for them to see just how much they really know.
 2. The questions on the quiz are as follows:
 - a. Who was rebuked by Jesus for being troubled about many things but not choosing the better part?
 - b. To whom did Jesus offer “living water” that would cause one to never again thirst?
 - c. Which disciple was given a second chance to follow Jesus after denying him?
 - d. Who postponed obedience to Christ by procrastinating for a “more convenient season?”
 - e. Who was the captive who gained his freedom in exchange for Jesus’ death?
 3. If you answered, (Martha, the Samaritan Woman, Peter, Felix, and Barabbas, you get partial credit, but the correct answer to every question is, “ME!”
 4. Why is it that we often read the Bible and deflect applications that apply to ourselves?
 5. Let’s re-read these accounts and make personal application.

I. Martha & Me

- A. (Luke 10:38-42).
- B. Notice that Martha was rebuked, not for doing evil, but for failing to choose what was better over what was good.
- C. We need to learn to discern between what is good and what is better (Acts 6:2-4).
- D. It is much more difficult to discern between what is good and better than to discern between what is good and evil.
- E. List some relevant applications to this principle that challenge our lives.

II. The Samaritan Woman & Me

- A. (John 4:1-42).
- B. This is the challenge of seeing through the perspective of eternity as opposed to the temporal.
- C. So many people are in search of temporal needs, they fail to consider their spiritual needs.
- D. Keeping the “unseen eternal” before us every day will impact the choice we make (Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16).
- E. How can we develop or keep this eternal view before us?

III. Peter & Me

- A. (Luke 22:54-62).
- B. Peter not only denied Jesus by his words that night, but he also denied him by his actions.
 - 1. Remember, Peter threw the other apostles under the bus, but declared he would die before deserting Jesus (Matthew 26:33).
 - 2. Yet, we see Peter fleeing from arrest like all the other disciples and following afar off (Luke 22:54).
- C. How often do we under pressure, and sometimes, not even under pressure, deny the confession we made?
- D. I hope we can respond as Peter did (Luke 22:62).
- E. Also, notice how Jesus made it easy for Peter to return (Mark 16:7).

IV. Felix & Me

- A. (Acts 2:25).
- B. Felix was convicted but buried his conviction through delay.
- C. As the song says, “there’s danger and death in delay.”
- D. We need to act now, while we can (Hebrews 3:13,15; Eph. 4:19; 1 Tim. 4:2).
- E. The church should make repentance “doable” (1 Cor. 5:1-11; 2 Cor. 2:6-8).

V. Barabbas & Me

- A. (Matthew 27:15-26).
- B. Have you ever wondered if Jesus’ death in exchange for Barabbas affected him?
- C. Does it affect us, because we are in the identical position Barabbas was in.
- D. How should it impact us to know we are responsible for the death of an innocent person?

- Conclusion:
- 1. May we learn to read the Bible through a lens that demands self-evaluation.
 - 2. (2 Corinthians 13:5).