

Buying forgiveness

Okay this might be the strangest I have typed yet but here goes... on Saturday afternoon as I was driving home from work I stopped at a garage and asked the attendant to wash my windscreen, when he had finished I gave him a R 5 and drove off..

As I was driving away I was reminded of a scene I saw years ago, I was driving behind a car that was being driven by a nun, we stopped at a red light and a window washer ran up to her car, (you know the type that washes your window when the robot is red against your will and then stands with an outstretched hand to get their "reward" for something you never asked them to do in the first place)..well this window washer ran up to the nun's car, washed the window and when the nun held out a coin he waved it away and made it clear he didn't want any payment and walked off..

Now why was I reminded of this, was this just a trigger bringing back a past memory or was this whole thought process going somewhere... it turns out it was going somewhere..

As I was driving off I thought about why someone who earns all he has from washing windows would do something like that.. is it just about being nice, is it about just blessing someone he sees as a "servant of the Lord" or is there a deeper reason for this....

Someone who lives on the street and does whatever he can to survive deciding that if he washes a window for free for a nun it just might be payment for his sins ? Is he subconsciously or consciously trying to pay penance. Then my mind starts running away with this...

What if we throw money into a plate at church some Sunday's not because we are paying our tithe (which by the way I am very strongly for, no one can convince me not to pay my tithe) but because we are trying to pay for a recent sin, feeling that God would forgive us easier if we put a few bucks in the plate.. What if we sometimes subconsciously or consciously reject the grace of the Cross of Jesus by trying to earn forgiveness and salvation through works, even if it is a few bucks in a collection plate?

I am reminded of the scripture that says that if we try to keep the law we reject the grace of God and we then have to keep the whole law to earn our own salvation, and I think of the sin offers of the old covenant and wonder how often we throw sin offers in to try and pay for our recent sins thus completely rejecting Jesus and the grace of the Cross, the complete work done for us.

And I wonder do we really understand that it is for free, grace upon grace, we cannot earn it?

Now my mind starts running a bit further, how many times are we going directly against the Word of God by being "good Samaritans". How many times are we giving money, even large sums and even full incomes to people not because God commanded or expected it but because we are trying to earn our salvation, forgiveness and ultimately even God's recognition, favour and love.

Now please don't send me hate mail if you're a pastor drawing a salary, this is not what I am referring to, the Word clearly states that a labourer is worth his wage. Someone working 7 to 10 hours a day for five days a week is definitely worth his wage no matter if he is a pastor or a lawyer, even if that work is praying full time .. But really praying, not saying you do and then not.. I know of men of God that pray for a living and honestly my hat goes off to them for what they do, praying 6 to 8 hours a day, day in and day out is a hectic job.. And blessing someone with a few hundred or thousand because God REALLY laid it on your heart is not what I am referring to here.

What I am talking about is if you read 2 Thessalonians 3:6-12 you will see those that are living idle lives, too lazy to work and using God as an excuse for them to live idly while meddling in the lives of other believers should not be supported financially, they should be avoided and ignored till they stop their laziness and start earning their income. In my terms, give them a good kick under the backside and tell them to stop freeload on others hard work and go earn an income because the Word says "He who doesn't work shouldn't eat."

Now will God contradict Himself by telling you to go support such a freeloader? Never, God is not confused. People are confused, and many times their "instruction from the Lord" is nothing more than their own self conjured up attempts to earn forgiveness and salvation and love and recognition, sometimes even thinking it makes them more spiritual to "bless" such a freeloader that pretends to be so "busy" with nothing that they cannot afford to stop doing nothing to go earn an income like God commands.

No why do these lazy freeloaders get away with it? "Spirituality" .. They stand on an anointing (that isn't theirs to begin with and comes without repentance because it suits God not because we are so nice and wonderful) thinking that this makes them a "spiritual elite" that deserves to freeload because it is such hard work being themselves, and then insecure, recognition seeking Christians make it their "Christian duty" to fulfil every whim and need of these freeloaders that actually just needs a kick under the backside. This makes the "good Samaritan" actually walk in sin because they go directly against God's word..

Can you imagine it, a hosepipe demanding special treatment because every now and again its Owner uses it to water His flowers with His water, while the hosepipe is just a vessel, a tool in the hand of the Owner to do what He wants to do.. like the clay trying to tell the Potter what to do with it.

~ Jaco Kruger ~ <http://www.pojc.org> ~

Now as I finished thinking about all of this I was overtaking someone driving a luxury German car because he was driving way to slow (according to me.. yes yes I see that face), when the guy saw that a 1400 bakkie was going to pass it he put his peddle down and speeded of, saving his poor ego from being bruised. Upon seeing this I audibly called him a word that I wont repeat (hey what do you know, I'm human..hehe) and just laughed. Then I remembered what I was thinking of and laughed even more, said "sorry Lord" and just smiled because I knew the few bucks I had left in my wallet would go for something I needed because I definitely wont be throwing it into a collection plate to try and pay for my harsh word as Jesus paid that price for me. Grace upon grace.

But then I came to the shocking realization that I still had to go back to work on Monday for my harsh word proved beyond a shadow of a doubt to me that I am not nearly "spiritual" enough to have someone pay for me to do nothing all day and I would have to work to eat like everyone else.

Oh well.. such is life ..

Jaco Kruger 20 September 2008