

## A PARABLE OF SIGHTSEEING. LUKE 7:24-35

### INTRODUCTION: THE PROVISIONS FOR SIGHTSEEING.

#### TOURISTS IN FLORIDA.

JESUS ASKED THREE QUESTIONS, EACH ONE ABOUT SEEING SOMETHING.

PROBABLY MANY WERE SINCERE WHO WENT TO JOHN, BUT OTHERS WERE NOTHING MORE THAN CURIOUS SIGHTSEERS.

"THEASASTHAI" = "TO BEHOLD WITH WONDER AND ADMIRATION"

I. DID YOU GO TO SEE A REED SHAKEN WITH THE WIND?

1. DESCRIPTION AND MEANING OF A REED. - Heb. "raneh" = Eng. "Care" often 20 ft. high, beautiful fresh green.

2. REMINDER OF REEDY BANKS OF THE JORDAN.

3. JOHN WAS NOT SHAKEN BY THE FICKLE WIND OF POPULAR APPLAUSE.

A. WHEN HE BECAME POPULAR HE WOULD NOT BEND BEFORE THE WORLDLY CURRENTS OF HUMAN THOUGHT AND AIM.

B. "IF JOHN HAD BEEN A WEAK AND FICKLE PERSON, YOU WOULD NOT HAVE MADE A PILGRIMAGE TO SEE HIM."

4. MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY ARE LIKE REEDS

A. SHAKEN BY EVERY WIND OF PUBLIC OPINION AND INFLUENCE

B. SHAKEN BY EVERY WIND OF DOCTRINE

C. SHAKEN BY EVERY WIND OF DOUBT.

II. DID YOU GO TO SEE A MAN CLOTHED IN SOFT RAIMENT?

1. MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE WORDS.

2. THOSE WHO ARE CLOTHED IN GORGEOUS APPAREL, AND LIVE IN LUXURY, ARE FOUND IN KING'S COURTS, NOT IN THE DESERT.

3. THE ASCETICISM OF JOHN.

A. THE RUDE SIMPLICITY OF HIS DRESS & camel's hair

B. THE RUSTIC FARE WITH WHICH HE WAS CONTENT - locusts, with honey

C. HE MIGHT HAVE DWELT IN KING'S HOUSES; YET HE MADE THE DESERT HIS HOME.

D. AS HE WAS SEVERE TO OTHERS SO WAS HE SEVERE TO HIMSELF.

E. V. 33, JOHN CAME EATING NO BREAD AND DRINKING NO WINE, YET THE RULER OF HIS GENERATION BEHEADED HIM.

4. THE JOYOUS FREEDOM OF CHRIST REJECTED JUST AS THE ASCET. OF JNO

A. VERSES 31-34

B. CHRIST WAS NO ASCETIC OR LEGALIST.

(1). HE IS HERE PLACED IN OPPOSITION TO THE ASCETICISM OF JOHN

(2). IN MANY PASSAGES WE SEE THAT HE IS PLACED IN OPPOSITION TO THE LEGALISM OF THE PHARISEES.

(3). TRUE CHRISTIANITY IS NOT A CODE OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF AN ANTI-SOCIAL CONDUCT.

14). Those who regulate their Christian conduct with strict principles of separation & ascetic self-denial should be careful of 2 things.

(A). Their legalistic works have no part in their salvation.

(B). They have no right to judge other sincere Christians who do not agree with them.

- III. DID YOU GO TO SEE "A PROPHET WHO IS GOD'S MESSENGER?"  
(NOTICE, THEY WENT TO SEE -- NOT TO HEAR)
1. THIS RECALLS THE FERVOR AND INSPIRATION WITH WHICH HE SPOKE.
  2. HE DEVOTED HIMSELF WHOLLY TO THE WILL AND SERVICE OF GOD.
  3. HE WAS MORE THAN A PROPHET.
    - A. HE WAS A CHOSEN MESSENGER TO PREPARE THE WAY BEFORE THE MESSIAH.
    - B. HE WAS THE GREATEST PERSON EVER BORN OF WOMAN, THAT IS, IN THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE.
    - C. (1). HUMAN GENERATION, NOT HEAVENLY REGENERATION.  
(2). HIS SUPERIORITY LAY IN HIS UNIQUE OFFICE AND MISSION.
    - C. YET ANY HUMBLE SAINT WHO HAS BEEN BORN INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS GREATER THAN HE.
      - (1). BY HIS OFFICE JOHN BELONGED TO THE OLD DISPENSATION; HE WAS ITS LAST AND HIGHEST PRODUCT; BUT HE BELONGED TO AN ERA OF PREPARATION.
      - (2). IN SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES, IN GRACE, AND IN KNOWLEDGE, ANY EVEN OF THE HUMBLER MEMBERS OF THE KINGDOM ARE SUPERIOR TO HIM.
        - (A). HE IS A SERVANT; THEY ARE SONS.
        - (B). HE IS THE FRIEND OF THE BRIDEGROOM; THEY ARE THE BRIDE OF THE BRIDEGROOM.

#### CONCLUSION:

DON'T FRUSTRATE THE COUNSEL OF GOD'S PURPOSE CONCERNING YOUR SOUL'S SALVATION. (V.30)  
BY YOUR OWN FREE WILL AND DELIBERATE CHOICE AND DECISION,  
TO REJECT CHRIST AND CONTINUE IN SIN,  
YOU CAN RENDER PLACELESS AND INEFFECTIVE CHRIST'S ATONEMENT  
ON THE CROSS  
AS FAR AS YOU PERSONALLY ARE CONCERNED.

SEE GAL. 2:21; - I do not frustrate the grace of God.  
3:15; - No one annuls the covenant.  
JOHN 12:48 - He that rejects me & receives not my word.  
LUKE 10:16 - He who despises you despises me, and he, that despises me, despises him who sent me.

H. M. 2/6/55