

Resting in God  
"The wonder of desiring to glorify only Jesus"

Study 22

*Acts 14:12-15 (New International Version) Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker.*

*13) The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.*

*14) But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting:*

*15) "Men, why are you doing this? We too are only men, human like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made heaven and earth and sea and everything in them.*

When walking in the Kingdom of heaven through Jesus, people of the world and most of the cold church will not fully understand the things that you will be called to do and the power that you have to do them. If you flow in miracles, they will attempt to deify you in some way. If you live on faith, they will call you too lazy to work, especially during the testing of your faith to do so. If you are a teacher or preacher with the promises of God on your lips that call others to repentance, most will either ignore you as radical, some will dismiss you as foolish, others, a small portion of those you reach, will hear your words and submit to God through Jesus.

Rising above the ways of the lower kingdoms is a life that is designed by God for His people. It is a very narrow road to travel, and there are very few who choose to travel it. But it is available and very much worth the wait.

Paul and Barnabas, demonstrated a life that was far superior to anyone before them other than Jesus. They lived as people thought their gods would live. Upon seeing how they were able to live past the common way, people wanted to lift them up as gods in an attempt to live a righteous life themselves. Both would have none of that foolishness, knowing that they would be stealing glory from Jesus.

You are called to overcome the lesser kingdoms by living the kind of life that Jesus lived in communion with His Father. When you do that you will have access to the ways of Jesus. In fact, He promised that those who followed Him would do the things that He did, and even greater things. If used in this way, your petition to God should be that you never take any of the credit for how you are used. To do so is not a good position to be in when you stand before Him. An even greater tragedy would be that you have usurped some of the glory meant for Jesus, for yourself.

Walking in the Kingdom of God with Jesus will take you to some very exciting places. At first they may look impossible to overcome. When practicing the presence of God in them, however, marvelous things are bound to happen, things only explained through the power of God. Delighting in giving all of the glory to Jesus, brings the focus where it belongs. In the midst of honoring Him, God is pleased and we are free to be used another day.

*Matthew 11:12 (New International Version) From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.*

What we call miracles are common occurrences in heaven. To those who are used by the Lord when He provides a miracle, they are simply the flowing of heavenly power on to the earth. Jesus is just sharing some of His wealth with those in need, glorifying the Father as He does.

You and I are called to be ready to be used to allow this to happen when the need presents itself and God wants to do something to show Himself real. Anytime we participate with God in getting the eyes of people off of the lower kingdoms and on to the Lord, we advance the Kingdom of heaven. Pointing to the true giver of life when this happens destroys lower kingdoms and their power.

Signs, wonders, and miracles forcefully advance the Kingdom of God. In themselves, they point to His ability and authority over all lower kingdoms. Always remember, however, that the wonder of a life that is changed in Jesus, is the greatest miracle of all. In that life, God has changed the address of that individual for all of eternity. He has given life to someone who was dead. He has placed Himself in the

temple of flesh through Jesus. He has destroyed the lower kingdoms in that individual and advanced the Kingdom of Heaven one more step. He has won one more war in the heart of one more of His children.

*Hebrews 4:9-10 (New International Version) There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; 10) for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.*

Heart rest with God is the privilege each of us have when in Jesus. When observed through the eyes of Jesus, challenges and perils take on a totally different appearance. They become the property of God, subject to His power, not ours.

Today, spend some time with the Lord for His best interest. Delight in His desires. Focus your attention on what He might desire to share. Ask Him to show you His world. You will be amazed how refreshed you become as your time is spent on His pleasure.

For thought or discussion:

Would Paul be able to take you with Him on his journey's to represent Jesus

Would anyone ever look to you to be as coming from heaven to meet their life needs