





BOUNTY HUNTER IDEOLOGIST OR CHRIST FOLLOWER?

LUKE 10:25-37 AND LUKE 11:1-4



- BARNAs RESEARCH - THE CHURCH IS STRUGGLING TO FORGIVE, UNDERSTAND AND EMBODY MERCY TODAY. CONSIDER THESE FINDINGS:

- [ONE-QUARTER OF PRACTICING CHRISTIANS SAYS THERE IS A PERSON WHO THEY CANNOT FORGIVE.](#)
 - ALMOST HALF OF PRACTICING CHRISTIANS SAY MERCY DOESN'T INFLUENCE THEIR THOUGHTS OR ACTIONS OR THEY HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT WHETHER IT DOES.
 - ONE IN FIVE PRACTICING CHRISTIANS REPORTS STRUGGLING TO RECEIVE FORGIVENESS FOR SOMETHING THEY HAVE PERSONALLY DONE.
 - CHRISTIANS GRAPPLE WITH WHETHER CERTAIN PEOPLE DESERVE COMPASSION OR FORGIVENESS, AND THEY ARE NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT FROM NON-CHRISTIANS WHEN IT COMES TO EMBODYING MERCIFUL ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS.
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- WHAT IMAGE COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD – **BOUNTY HUNTER?**
- IF YOU ARE LIKE ME, I PICTURE A LONER - A CLINT EASTWOOD TYPE.
- WHAT ABOUT THIS MAN?



Dog the Bounty Hunter

- RELENTLESS FOCUS – CAPTURING THE PERSON YOU ARE AFTER
- **CAN YOU IMAGINE SPENDING YOUR DAYS LIKE THAT?**

17%
of Christians...

A recent Barna study revealed that only 17% of Christians believe it's their job to show mercy. Most thought the work should fall to churches, nonprofits, and government programs. Yet, when surveyed, the pastors of churches overwhelmingly thought that the recipients of mercy should be the poor and victims in distress rather than people who have hurt us or society. By a factor of more than 5:1, pastors and Christians thought that those who are incarcerated and those who have wronged us personally were less deserving of their compassion. **Has the church over-indexed on truth at the expense of biblical mercy?**

- WHAT ABOUT MERCY AND FORGIVENESS?
- CAN YOU HAVE ONE WITHOUT THE OTHER?
- IS UNFORGIVENESS (NOT FORGIVING) AND A LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OR APPLICATION OF MERCY TIED TOGETHER?

- **COMPASSION** IS THE TRANSLATION OF *RACHAM*, "TO LOVE," "PITY," "BE MERCIFUL" (DEUTERONOMY 13:17; 30:3);
- **COMPASSION**, LITERALLY A FEELING WITH AND FOR OTHERS, IS A FUNDAMENTAL AND DISTINCTIVE QUALITY OF THE BIBLICAL CONCEPTION OF GOD, AND TO ITS PROMINENCE THE WORLD OWES MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS.
- THE GOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE FATHER OF MEN, IS MOST CLEARLY REVEALED AS "A GOD FULL OF COMPASSION." IT EXTENDS TO THE WHOLE HUMAN RACE, FOR WHICH HE EFFECTED NOT MERELY A TEMPORAL, BUT A SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL, DELIVERANCE, GIVING UP HIS OWN SON TO THE DEATH OF THE CROSS IN ORDER TO SAVE US FROM THE WORST BONDAGE OF SIN, WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES; SEEKING THEREBY TO GAIN A NEW, WIDER PEOPLE FOR HIMSELF, STILL MORE DEVOTED, MORE FILLED WITH AND EXPRESSIVE OF HIS OWN SPIRIT. **THEREFORE, ALL WHO KNOW THE GOD AND FATHER OF CHRIST, AND WHO CALL THEMSELVES HIS CHILDREN, MUST NECESSARILY CULTIVATE COMPASSION AND SHOW MERCY, "EVEN AS HE IS MERCIFUL." HENCE, THE MANY APOSTOLIC INJUNCTIONS TO THAT EFFECT** (EPH 4:32; COL 3:12; JAMES 1:27; 1 JOHN 3:17, ETC.). CHRISTIANITY MAY BE SAID TO BE DISTINCTIVELY THE RELIGION OF COMPASSION.
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- **HAVE WE AS THE CHURCH OVER-INDEXED ON TRUTH AT THE EXPENSE OF BIBLICAL MERCY?**

- THE UNIQUE THING ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS THAT TRUTH ARRIVED ON THIS EARTH 2,000 PLUS YEARS AGO.
- TRUTH'S NAME IS JESUS.
- HE IS OUR HOPE: FOR RESCUE FROM OUR SINS, SELFISHNESS, ADDICTIONS, AND SORROW. HE IS ALIVE TODAY AND IS PERFECTLY PATIENT. HE CONTINUES TO LOVE AND PURSUE THE LOST AND ENEMIES.

- **EVEN THOUGH I DON'T LIKE USING THE WORD RELIGION, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE WORD!**

- IN LATIN, THE ROOT WORD FOR RELIGION IS *LIGARE*, WHICH MEANS "TO CONNECT, BIND, OR JOIN." SO RELIGION IS ABOUT RECONNECTING BROKEN, FALLEN PEOPLE WITH THEIR LOVING CREATOR GOD.
- MERCY AND TRUTH ARE THE CORE OF "RELIGIOUS" LIGAMENTS THAT RECONNECT US. IN PSALM 25:10, GOD DISCLOSES HIS OPERATING SYSTEM: "ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE MERCY AND TRUTH UNTO SUCH AS KEEP HIS COVENANT AND HIS TESTIMONIES" (KJ V). THIS COUPLING OF MERCY AND TRUTH OCCURS THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE. WE RECEIVE AN ARRAY OF BENEFITS BY RECONNECTING WITH GOD IN THIS WAY

- **FAVOR FROM GOD AND A GOOD NAME** - PROVERBS 3:3-4 LET NOT MERCY AND TRUTH FORSAKE YOU;
- BIND THEM AROUND YOUR NECK, WRITE THEM ON THE TABLET OF YOUR HEART, 4 AND SO FIND FAVOR AND HIGH ESTEEM IN THE SIGHT OF GOD AND MAN. NKJV
- **ATONEMENT FOR OUR SINS** - PROVERBS 16:6 IN MERCY AND TRUTH ATONEMENT IS PROVIDED FOR INIQUITY; AND BY THE FEAR OF THE LORD ONE DEPARTS FROM EVIL. NKJV
- **POWER AND POSITION ARE PRESERVED** - PROVERBS 20:28 MERCY AND TRUTH PRESERVE THE KING, AND BY LOVINGKINDNESS HE UPHOLDS HIS THRONE. NKJV
- **MERCY AND TRUTH ARE INSEPARABLE FROM GOD'S PRESENCE** - PSALM 89:14 RIGHTEOUSNESS AND JUSTICE ARE THE FOUNDATION OF YOUR THRONE; MERCY AND TRUTH GO BEFORE YOUR FACE. NKJV
- **MERCY AND TRUTH ARE THE FORERUNNERS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE** - PSALM 85:10-11 MERCY AND TRUTH HAVE MET TOGETHER; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE HAVE KISSED. 11 TRUTH SHALL SPRING OUT OF THE EARTH, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS SHALL LOOK DOWN FROM HEAVEN. NKJV
- WE SEE THE REVELATION OF BOTH GOD'S HEART AND CHARACTER IN MERCY AND TRUTH. AS SUCH, WHEN THESE GET OUT OF BALANCE, WE CEASE BEING THE LIGAMENTS THAT PROPERLY CONNECT PEOPLE TO GOD.

- **IDEOLOGIST**

- IDEOLOGY - DEFINITION OF *IDEOLOGY*

- 1 A : A MANNER OR THE CONTENT OF THINKING CHARACTERISTIC OF AN INDIVIDUAL, GROUP, OR CULTURE
- B : THE INTEGRATED ASSERTIONS, THEORIES AND AIMS THAT CONSTITUTE A SOCIOPOLITICAL PROGRAM
- C : A SYSTEMATIC BODY OF CONCEPTS ESPECIALLY ABOUT HUMAN LIFE OR CULTURE)

- TRUTH'S NAME IS JESUS, IDEOLOGY ON THE OTHER HAND IS NOT A PERSON, IS NOT KIND, PATIENT, OR ENDEARING. JESUS WARNED ABOUT IDEOLOGUES.

- DEFINITION OF *IDEOLOGUE*

- 1 : AN OFTEN BLINDLY PARTISAN ADVOCATE OR ADHERENT OF A PARTICULAR [IDEOLOGY](#)
- 2 : AN IMPRACTICAL IDEALIST : [THEORIST](#)

- ...HE CALLED THEM PHARISEES.

- THEY LOVED THE IDEA OF TRUTH BUT HATED THE TRUTH, THE PERSON OF JESUS. JESUS HAD STRONG WORDS FOR THEM, CALLING THEM "SONS OF SNAKES" AND ACCUSING THEM OF PUTTING PEOPLE IN BONDAGE TO RELIGION IN MATTHEW 23:33.

- **BUT TOO OFTEN MUCH OF TODAY'S RELIGION DOESN'T BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AS MUCH AS IT TEARS THEM APART.**

- “THE WORLD IS GROWING MORE SECULAR AT A DIZZYING RATE. THOSE WHO REMAIN IN FAITH OFTEN DEBATE POLITICS AND DOGMA WITH ONE ANOTHER. WHEN THE CHRISTIAN POLLING ORGANIZATION BARNABAS GROUP ASKED YOUNG AMERICANS WHAT THEY THOUGHT ABOUT CHRISTIANS, THOSE MILLENNIALS DESCRIBED US AS "HYPOCRITICAL," "JUDGMENTAL," AND "INSENSITIVE.“ IN ANOTHER RECENT SURVEY, 46 PERCENT OF AMERICANS BELIEVED THAT "RELIGION IS PART OF THE PROBLEM, NOT THE SOLUTION." (THE GOD IMPULSE BY JACK ALEXANDER)

- IDEOLOGUE, PERSON OF PRINCIPLED POSITION OR THE WAY OF MERCY?

- **HOW DO WE, OR DO I, PRESENT OUR BELIEFS AND CONVICTIONS?**

- LUKE 10:29 **THE MAN WANTED TO JUSTIFY HIS ACTIONS**, SO HE ASKED JESUS, "**AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?**"
- LUKE 10:36 "NOW WHICH OF THESE THREE WOULD YOU SAY WAS A NEIGHBOR TO THE MAN WHO WAS ATTACKED BY BANDITS?" JESUS ASKED. 37 THE MAN REPLIED, "THE ONE WHO SHOWED HIM MERCY." THEN JESUS SAID, "**YES, NOW GO AND DO THE SAME.**" NLT
- **TEACH US TO PRAY:**
- LUKE 11:1-4 ONCE JESUS WAS IN A CERTAIN PLACE PRAYING. AS HE FINISHED, ONE OF HIS DISCIPLES CAME TO HIM AND SAID, "LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY, JUST AS JOHN TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES." 2 JESUS SAID, "THIS IS HOW YOU SHOULD PRAY:
- "FATHER, MAY YOUR NAME BE KEPT HOLY. MAY YOUR KINGDOM COME SOON.
- 3 GIVE US EACH DAY THE FOOD WE NEED,
- 4 **AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO SIN AGAINST US.**
- AND DON'T LET US YIELD TO TEMPTATION." NLT

- THE QUESTIONS I WANT TO LEAVE US WITH THIS MORNING ARE:
 - DO MY WORDS AND ACTIONS ANSWER THE QUESTION OF BOUNTY HUNTER, IDEOLOGIST OR CHRIST FOLLOWER?
- AM I A BOUNTY HUNTER:
 - EVEN THE BEST AMONG US SPEND TIME DEMANDING PAYMENT.
 - DOESN'T SOMEONE OWE YOU SOMETHING?
 - AN APOLOGY?
 - A SECOND CHANCE?
 - A FRESH START?
 - AN EXPLANATION?
 - A THANK YOU?
 - A CHILDHOOD?
 - A MARRIAGE?

- STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT (WHICH I DON'T ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO FOR LONG), AND YOU CAN MAKE A LIST OF A LOT OF FOLKS WHO ARE IN YOUR DEBT.
 - YOUR PARENTS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE PROTECTIVE.
 - YOUR CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE APPRECIATIVE.
 - YOUR SPOUSE MORE SENSITIVE.
 - A CHURCH LEADER OR OTHER CHRISTIANS SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE ATTENTIVE.
- WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THOSE IN YOUR DEBT?"
- MAYBE YOU HAVE BEEN RIDING THE TRAIL SEEKING TO MAKE SOMEONE PAY!
 - TODAY COULD BE YOUR RETIREMENT DAY!!!!

- **AM I AN IDEOLOGUE**, INFLEXIBLE AND UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN OPEN DIALOGUE? AM I OF A PRINCIPLED POSITION HAVE AN OPEN MIND AND A RESPECT FOR OTHERS THAT ENABLES ME TO PARTICIPATE IN CONVERSATION WITH PEOPLE WHO MAY SEE SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY? DO I RESPOND IN THE WAY OF MERCY, OPENING MY MIND AND HEART TO THOSE WHO LOOK AND BELIEVE DIFFERENTLY THAN ME?
- AM I A CHRIST FOLLOWER?
 - **WHAT WOULD THE WORLD LOOK LIKE IF WE THE CHURCH GOT EXCITED ABOUT GOD'S MISSION OF LOVE AND MERCY?**
 - WHAT WOULD MY FAMILY, MY NEIGHBORHOOD, MY PLACE OF WORK LOOK LIKE IF I DID THE SAME?
- **“JESUS CHRIST CAME TO PAY A DEBT HE DID NOT OWE, BECAUSE WE OWED A DEBT WE COULD NOT PAY.”**



