

DIFFERENT THINKING #2

Nicolas Edwards

Let's consider some more examples of different thinking.

LOVE/HATE REBUKE. *“He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee”* (Prov. 9:7-8). This difference in thinking either makes one a scorner or a wise man. Which one are you? May we say as David, *“Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head...”* (Ps. 141:5).

POOR WIDOW/YOUNG MAN. In Mark 12:41-44, the Lord beheld *“a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.”* He said, *“this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”* This is sacrificial giving! In Mark 10:17-22, we read of a young man that had great possessions. The Lord told him, in verse 21, *“One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast,*

and give to the poor; and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me. And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.” When it comes to our giving, how do we think?

COMPASSION/WOULD NOT. In Mathew 18:21-35, the Lord talks to Peter about forgiveness. He tells of a certain king who had a servant *“which owed him ten thousand talents”* (v. 24). *“The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant, went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt”* (v. 26-30). Are we like the king or the servant?

JOB/HIS WIFE. Different thinking is seen between Job and his wife. After Job was destroyed *“without cause”* (2:3), his wife said, *“curse God, and die. But he said unto her,*

thou speakest as one of the foolish woman speaketh. What? Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips” (2:9-10). *“In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly”* (1:22). Job said, *“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him”* (13:15). What would we have said?

THERE IS A GOD/ I, MY, MY. These are two expressions which reveal two different ways of thinking. In Daniel 2, when Daniel interpreted the king's dream, he said, *“But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets... But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living”* (2:28-30). The king did not give glory to God but said, *“Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty”* (4:30)?

FLED/INQUIRED. When Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to lie with her, he *“fled, and got him out”* (Gen. 39:12). When David *“saw a woman”*, he *“sent and inquired after the woman”* (2 Sam. 11:2-3). This led to great consequences. May we have the conviction to *“flee”* (1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).

MEDDLING WITH GOD

John Edwards

The sin that led to king Josiah's death was that of "meddling with God" (2 Chr. 35:20-25). To meddle with God is to interfere with God or oppose God. How might we be guilty of meddling with God today?

ADDING TO OR TAKING AWAY FROM WHAT GOD SAID. It is written, "*Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you*" (Dt. 4:2; 12:32). This principle is upheld all throughout the Bible. In fact, John the Revelator concludes with this final warning: "*If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book*" (Rev. 22:18-19). By adding to or taking away from what God

said, we are meddling with God!

MAKING APOLOGIES FOR WHAT GOD HAS SAID.

Some have made apologies for what God says and such are interfering with the work of God! Jesus spoke the truth without fear or favor of men (Mk. 12:14), and so should we! When folks were offended, He didn't apologize, but said, "*Let them alone*" (Mt. 15:1-14). Where did Paul apologize for the gospel (Rom. 1:16)?

NOT APPEALING TO WHAT GOD SAID. Rather than appealing to what God said in the Bible, some appeal to what they think or what some other man has said. Such are meddling with God! Our appeal should always be, "*For what saith the scripture?*" (Rom. 4:3). "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*" (2 Tim. 3:16-17). "*Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto*

him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). Do you know a better way to preach than that?

NOT HEARKENING UNTO WHAT GOD SAID. Josiah did not hearken unto the words from the mouth of God (2 Chr. 35:21-22). This was a problem with Israel. It is recorded, "*But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments, And refused to obey, neither were mindful of thy wonders that thou didst among them; but hardened their necks, and in their rebellion appointed a captain to return to their bondage...*" (Neh. 9:16-17). To not do as God says is to meddle with God!

TEACHING CONTRARY TO WHAT GOD HAS SAID. When the Lord said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*" (Mk. 16:16) and men say, "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved", they are meddling with God! When God says, "*Take heed lest ye fall*" (1 Cor. 10:12), and men say a child of God cannot fall so as to be lost, they are interfering and opposing God!

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com