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Please...HAVE ME EXCUSED!

here is coming a day when Jesus Christ "...COMETH with clouds; and EVERY EYE shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and ALL KINDREDS of the earth shall WAIL [TO EXPRESS GRIEF OR PAIN BY LONG, LOUD CRIES] because of HIM" (REVELATION 1:7).



And, when he comes, the saints of God will be with him. But **TODAY**, the saints, who **WERE ONCE** in darkness, preach to those who are <u>still lost</u>, to billions of people who <u>reject</u> him, and <u>refuse</u> to follow him, such as this **RICH** young ruler:

Jesus told him, "If thou wilt be **PERFECT**, go and sell that thou hast, and **GIVE** to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and **COME** and **FOLLOW** me" (MATT. 19:21). But, "<u>he went away sorrowful</u>" (MATT. 19:22) because he was **RICH**!

As far as we know, this rich youg ruler missed a wonderful opportunity. Is he lost? We don't know, for we are to "...JUDGE NOTHING before the time, UNTIL the Lord come, who both will BRING TO LIGHT the hidden things of darkness" (1 COR.4:5).

Once, Jesus met a man with an unclean spirit who dwelled among the tombs. He was naked, and no man could tame him. But, when Jesus healed him, the man was sitting, clothed, and in his <u>RIGHT MIND</u> (MARK 5:15).

But when the inhabitants of the city were told what had happened, they **CAME**, they **SAW**, and "...*besought* [JESUS] *that he would* **DE-PART OUT OF THEIR COASTS**" (MATT. 8:34). WHY?

Because "...LIGHT is come into the world, and men LOVED darkness RATHER than light, because their DEEDS were evil. For EVERY ONE that doeth evil HATETH THE LIGHT, neither COMETH TO the light..." (JOHN 3:19-20).

Many times, Jesus tried **REASONING** with men of corrupt minds, such as the Pharisees when he asked them, "WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST? Whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David.

He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit CALL HIM LORD, saying, The <u>Lord</u> said unto MY <u>Lord</u>, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then CALL HIM LORD, how is he HIS SON?

And NO MAN WAS ABLE TO ANSWER HIM A WORD" (MATT. 22:41-46). You would think that they would have said something like, "HEY, that's a GREAT POINT! I have NEVER thought of that!"

Or, what about the time when the religious leaders **WATCHED JESUS** to see if he would heal the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath day? Jesus asked, "*Is it lawful to* **DO GOOD** on the Sabbath days, or to do evil? To SAVE life, or to KILL? But they HELD THEIR PEACE" (MARK 3:1-4).

When a **MIND** is determined to <u>reject</u> the <u>TRUTH</u>, there is nothing that can be done, for "...the god of **THIS WORLD** hath **BLINDED THE MINDS** of them which **BELIEVE NOT**, lest the <u>LIGHT</u> of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should <u>SHINE</u> unto them" (2 COR. 4:4).

These religious men **CARED NOTHING** for this man's withered hand, they cared only about their religious **TRADITIONS** and **DOGMAS**. Whether in heaven or hell, they sincerely **RE-GRET** their actions done on that day.

Jesus said, "For JUDGMENT [A DECISION] I am COME INTO THIS WORLD, that THEY which SEE NOT might see; and that THEY which SEE might be MADE BLIND" (JOHN 9:39).

Every sinner will stand in judgment before the Lamb of God who will SIT upon His throne. "And WHOSOEVER [IS] NOT FOUND WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE [WILL BE] CAST into the Lake of Fire" (REV. 20:15). And, <u>ALL</u> who <u>do not</u> believe this will be there too, waiting their turn! Jesus spoke a parable: "A certain man [Jesus] made a GREAT supper, and BADE [CALLED] MANY [THE JEWS]: and SENT his SERVANT [PROPHETS; BELIEVERS] at SUPPER TIME to say to them that were BIDDEN [MANY ARE CALLED],

COME; for <u>ALL THINGS</u> [ETERNAL LIFE] ARE NOW READY" (LUKE 14:16-24 READ IT).

One by one, they began to make <u>EXCUSES</u> why they "<u>couldn't</u>" COME to the supper.

"...the master of the house being ANGRY said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and BRING IN hither the POOR, and the MAIMED, and the HALT, and the BLIND...Go out into the HIGHWAYS and HEDGES, and COMPEL [TO NECESSITATE] them to COME IN...for I say unto you, that NONE OF THOSE MEN which were BIDDEN shall TASTE of my supper."

Saying "<u>NO</u>" to God comes with a penalty: "*He* that **REJECTETH ME**, and **RECEIVETH NOT** my <u>WORDS</u>, hath **ONE** that **JUDGETH** him: the <u>WORD</u> that I have **SPOKEN**, the same shall **JUDGE** him **IN THE LAST DAY**" (JOHN 12:48).

