

## **Lest We Drift Away Not Me Lord?**

by Hendrik Joubert

Have you ever found yourself watching Candid Camera thinking: *They will never catch me like that!* We all are vulnerable if the circumstances are just right. People become victims of scams in the same way, although greed plays an important role in these cases. Each one of us has our own candid camera moments throughout life without it being recorded for others to laugh about. Some of these moments are not funny at all, but rather serious.

Do you find yourself shaking your head in disbelief when you read of Israel's repeated unfaithfulness? What about the fact that they fulfilled so many prophecies leading up to, and including the crucifixion? Do you also have a problem with Peter's denial of the Lord, thinking to yourself, as he, as well as all the other disciples did? ***"Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (Matthew 26:35)***

If everything happened as Peter and the others had it scripted in their minds they most probably would have stood with Jesus – as they did after His resurrection. They expected an earthly kingdom with the Lord reigning in Jerusalem. On the day the Lord was taken up from them, but before the Holy Spirit was sent to ***"guide you into all truth,"*** they asked one more time: ***"Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6)*** Like many in our day, they did not expect a spiritual kingdom, not of this earth: ***My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here." (John 18:36)***

Then the unimaginable happened, the people were successful in nailing the Son of God (the King) to a cross. Who is able to kill God? What is happening here?! Even Judas may have thought that he had some easy money coming to him. Giving them Jesus was like feeding doves to a wolf, God will take care of them – who is able to kill the Son of God?!

Things did not go as they had it figured out in their minds, and herein lies the roots of deception and error. When one approaches the Bible looking to justify what you already believe, you find yourself having to interpret many passages because they do not fit the script. Even the most obvious things escape your attention. The revelation of the New Testament of Jesus Christ took place in parts, or sections. **(1Corinthians 13:9; Ephesians 3:3-5-7)** It was as pieces of a puzzle being assembled before their eyes, until it was complete. **(1Corinthians 13:10)** Now we too may use this perfect law of liberty as a mirror to see ourselves as God sees us so we may change and not be hearers of the word only. **(James 1:21-25)**

In his second letter to Timothy Paul writes: ***All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2Timothy 3:16-17)*** It is Peter who confirms that the writings of Paul form part of the Scriptures: ***...as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, (by inspiration of God - 2Timothy 3:16) has written to you, <sup>16</sup> as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures. (2Peter 3:15-16)***

Every subject of ***the faith once for all delivered to the saints*** (Jude 3) in this way is described in different ways and in different passages. These too form pieces of a puzzle which, when we assemble them, helps us see what God would have us believe about it, and ***So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*** (Romans 10:17) Those who desire to please God must study the Scriptures in order that they may be workmen who need not be ashamed, but accurately handling the word of truth. (2Timothy 2:15) not reaching conclusions based on isolated statements on any given subject contained in the faith.

The experience of the disciples *with the Lord present* should humble us so that we will pay much closer attention to what we read in the Scriptures. Our worst enemy is thinking that we will not be caught in the same way. We will not consider the possibility that we may drift, as they did. We are warned to ***give the more earnest heed, or pay much closer attention to what we have heard; For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty,***<sup>3</sup> ***how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,...***Hebrews 2:2-3

Consider the denominational world with so many doctrines compiled by men, where the slogan is "Worship with the church of your choice!" Do you see it as a fulfillment of the prayer Jesus made ***that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us*** (John 17:20-23), or do you see it as a fulfillment of a prophecy given through Paul in his letter to Timothy: ***For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;***<sup>4</sup> ***and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*** (2Timothy 4:3-4)

Add to this the sobering statement: ***AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.***" (Matthew 15:9) The simple implications of this passage for the synods and councils who devise these doctrines are obvious; except the consequences are considered beyond the realm of possibility...*Surely not I Lord...* Read **Matthew 7:12-23**.