

Who is God to me > Would we recognize Him? The Church, His Body

Would we recognize Him? Jesus, the Head (Recap)

- The real Jesus was hidden from most of the world (Isaiah 53:2,3; Isaiah 45:15)
- Simon the Pharisee had a wrong picture of what God was like (Luke 7:39)
- They didn't have any fear to speak evil (Mat 12:24), oppose and try to harm Him (Mat 12:14); the very God who made the heavens and the earth. Greater than Solomon, Jonah but we don't see that He was given that honor (Mat 12:41,42)
- The centurion who may have never seen the physical Jesus, yet recognized Him (Luke 7:1-10)

Would we recognize Him? The church, His Body

But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; (2 Cor 4:7)

Like the head, the body of Christ carried the treasure in earthen vessels

- How those in the body of Christ were viewed by the religious leaders (Acts 4:13, Acts 5:33, 39)
 - Looking at the natural appearance and earthly qualifications
 - Like with Jesus, they couldn't stand that these so ordinary men could be special in the eyes of God
 - No fear of consequences of mistreating the disciples
- Assessment of Peter by some members of the early church (Romans 13:3, Acts 5:1-10)
 - There is a certain fear instilled in us in the midst of men of authority (bosses, kings, police etc.)
 - Ananias and Sapphira didn't have any fear of Peter or recognition that He was a man filled with God's Holy Spirit
- Paul's appearance to Corinthian church (1 Cor 2:3-5, 1 Cor 4:13)
 - Weakness and much trembling
 - Scum of the world, dregs of all things
- ❖ How does this affect **us** in the body of the Christ? (Gal 4:15; Php. 2:3, 29, 30; I Tim 5:17, 2 Cor 5:16)
 - Sense of blessing for the members in His Body (Gal 4:15) or are we "This is **JUST** brother or **JUST** sister"
 - Would those in the His body be too ordinary for us to recognize it?
 - As we get to know the family of God closer and see their humanity, we have a tendency to forget that the treasure is hidden inside the earthen vessel and focus on the earthen vessel
 - We can also get some occupied with the earthen vessel (external things)
- The way apostles handle matters of finding God's direction (Acts 15:1-35, **Acts 15:2, 7, 30**, Acts 10:9-17, **Acts 10:17**)
 - These were men filled with the Holy Spirit and gifted yet how what the will of the Lord revealed to them
 - Going 300 miles, debating and then concluding the will of the Lord was and travelling back 300 miles
 - We have a picture that every direction of God must be through supernatural means
 - Would having a church board meeting or planning meeting offend us because it is too ordinary? Important if there is treasure in the earthen vessel.
- ❖ Can **we** appreciate the ordinary (earthen) workings of the Lord in the body of Christ?
 - Church planning meetings - are we looking for signs and wonders?
 - Scheduled prayer meetings – do we think they are ritualistic, man initiated?
 - Planned topics for discussion –two churches can do the exact same things (yet treasure may only be in one?)