

BIBLE CONTRADICTIONS?

Critics have often tried to discredit the Bible by pointing out apparent contradictions. A contradiction is when you have two thoughts or statements in the Bible that cannot both be true.

Verses that seem to be contradictions are easily explained by simply looking at the context. The two statements may be in different settings and different circumstances that allow both statements to be true. The two statements may not be contradictory at all but complimentary. For example, **MATTHEW 26.39** says that Jesus “*fell on His face and prayed*” indicating that He laid down flat. Luke’s account says that Jesus “*knelt down and prayed*” (Luke 23.41). Did Jesus lay down on His face, or did He kneel? The answer: Both! He knelt down, and then laid down. The two statements are complimentary.

One alleged contradiction is found in **MATTHEW 5.22**: “*But whoever says, ‘You fool’ will be in danger of hell fire.*” Jesus tells us that if you call someone a fool, you will face eternal condemnation. However, occasionally Jesus refers to people as fools. In fact, at the end of this very sermon which began in Matthew 5, Jesus likens those who do not obey His teachings as “*a foolish man*” (Matt. 7.26). Jesus says that calling someone a fool will put you in danger of hell. Jesus then says that you are a fool if you do not obey His teachings. How do we explain this apparent contradiction?

To answer the question, there is a context that needs to be considered. The statement Jesus made in Matthew 5.22 is in a context where Jesus is condemning hatred. The Pharisees condemned murder, but they condoned the emotions of anger and hatred (Matt. 5.21). Jesus reminds us that in the eyes of God, hating someone is just as wrong as murdering someone (1 John 3.15). It is within this context that Jesus condemns calling someone a fool (Matt. 5.22). The idea is that insulting someone as an expression of anger and hatred is never acceptable by God. In contrast, Jesus never called someone a fool with such malicious intent but used it as a description of someone who lacked wisdom.

Jesus never condemned calling someone a fool. He condemned expressing hatred and unjustified anger toward your brethren. This is something that Jesus never did. There is no contradiction in the words of Jesus, only a misinterpretation by His critics. CLP

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”
-Mark 16.15

June 2, 2024

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:00 PM

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

As it is in any relationship, the individual congregations of God’s saved people are going to be fraught with problems. People make mistakes. Words are said in haste. Decisions are made out of bad judgment. When brethren are motivated by their love for each other and toward God, these problems will always work out.

The problems that existed in the church in Thyatira were of a completely different nature. Their problems existed because of sin. It is important to note that Thyatira had some praiseworthy characteristics. They were known for their “*works, love, service, faith,*” and “*patience*” (Rev. 3.19). They were showing great progress and growth for they had done more in the present than they had done in the past (Rev. 3.19).

However, their largest strike against them was their toleration of sin. Someone characterized as Jezebel was teaching false doctrine and encouraging the brethren to commit sexual immorality (Rev. 3.20). And like Thyatira, even those who are not guilty of the commission of sin, are condemned by allowing it.

However, even in the midst of this corruption, there were some who were counted as faithful (Rev. 3.24). Indeed, we will not be judged by the actions of the church but by our own individual works (Rev. 3.23). CLP

A HEART THAT IS WILLING TO GIVE
2 CORINTHIANS 8:2

INTRODUCTION:

1. Giving involves what we give and how we give. (2 Cor. 9.6,7)
2. In Old Testament times, Israel gave because their *“heart was stirred”* and their *“spirit was willing”* (Ex. 35.5,10,21; Ex. 36.6)
3. What will stir our hearts and help us develop a giving spirit?

I. THE EXAMPLE OF THE MACEDONIANS

- A. The Macedonians are an example of sacrificial giving.
 1. The brethren in Macedonia gave with a willing spirit and with a heart that was stirred. (2 Cor. 8.3,5)
 2. Their giving was sacrificial. (2 Cor. 8.2)
- B. Three words describe their giving:
 1. Their giving was a grace. (2 Cor. 8.1,6,7; cf. Eph. 2.4-7)
 2. Their giving was a fellowship. (2 Cor. 8.4; Acts 2.42)
 3. Their giving was a test. (2 Cor. 8.8; 1 Cor. 13.5)

II. THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS

- A. Jesus is an example of sacrificial giving.
 1. **2 CORINTHIANS 8.9:** *“though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor...”*
 2. Poor (ptocheuo): *“to become a beggar”*
- B. Jesus lived a life of poverty.
 1. In childhood, He had very little. (Luke 2.24)
 2. In adulthood, He had even less. (Matt. 8.20)
 3. In death, He had nothing. (Matt. 27.35; cf. Job 1.21)
 4. Yet He gave everything willingly with joy. (John 10.18)

III. HOW CAN WE GIVE MORE SACRIFICALLY?

- A. Giving more as a congregation.
 1. Evangelism: Remembering our purpose will help us give more sacrificially. (Eph. 3.10)
 2. Encouragement: Giving attention to the subject of giving will encourage us. (1 Thess. 5.12)
- B. Giving more as individuals.
 1. Examination: Spend some time examining how much you give. (1 Tim. 6.8; Luke 19.4; 21.4)
 2. Embrace: Embrace what the Bible says about our giving. (Matt. 6.19-21; Col. 3.2; Eph. 4.28)

CONCLUSION: MARK 10.29,30: There are blessings in giving.

TAKE THE NAME OF JESUS WITH YOU

Historians tell us that there has not been a time in human history when there was world peace. In 1919 after World War I, a body was established known as the League of Nations. Consisting of world leaders, their mission was to prevent another world war. They failed. In 1939, World War II was started when Germany invaded Poland. After the second world war, another body was established with the same goal. It was known as the United Nations, and it still exists today.

While peace seems to be elusive, Jesus promised us peace. Jesus tells us in **JOHN 14.27**, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.”* Jesus gives us a peace that is different from the peace offered by the world. The peace offered by the world is temporary and often insincere. But the peace that is offered by Jesus is eternal and genuine. It is so prolific that it goes beyond our understanding (Phil. 4.7)

The peace that Jesus offers is threefold. First, He gives us peace of mind. After Jesus promises to give us peace in John 14.27, He goes on to say, *“Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* Because of the peace that Jesus offers, we can live with our fear, worry, and doubt filling our minds. Second, He gives us peace with God. When we come to God with an obedient faith, *“we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (Rom. 5.1). Third, He gives us peace with other people. The Jews and Gentiles despised one another. There was a separation between them. But Jesus *“is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation”* (Eph. 2.14). We can enjoy a wonderful relationship with people we normally would not get along with, and Jesus made that possible.

There is a reason why Jesus is the source of the peace we can enjoy within ourselves, with God, and with others. In the Messianic prophecy of Isaiah 9, we are told that *“His name will be called...Prince of Peace”* (Isa. 9.6). The word “prince” is the same word used of Potiphar when he was described as the “captain of the guard.” It refers to one who is a commander. The name of Jesus suggests that He is the captain, the commander of peace.

When you go to sleep tonight and the troubles of life keep you awake, remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When you find yourself in conflict with your spouse or your coworker, remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When you struggle with your faith and wonder if you are truly right with God, remember that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. So as you go your way, taken the name of Jesus with you and “pursue the things which make for peace” (Rom. 14.19). CLP