# Red Letter Edition

What did Jesus Say?



## MAN OR MONKEY?

#### What's New?

### **Red Letter** Edition WEEKDAYS!

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Called the "fastest hour in radio", Red Letter Edition - WEEKDAYS! makes short work of understanding the Bible. You'll be constantly challenged to verify your beliefs in a way that will ultimately result in a living and lasting relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The show is always alive with questions and discussion.

here is a peculiar concept of thought and behavior that separates the animal kingdom from the domain of human existence. Opposing thumbs notwithstanding, there *is* a more prominent division in the two kingdoms. The driving force of "Ought" is a most formidable compulsion.

The concept of "Ought" has motivated decent men to good works while simultaneously robbing the selfish man of joy even in the midst of his favorite indulgences. While effectively prompting the altruistic to benevolence, the avoidance of "Ought" has left many in the mire of egocentric behavior. Sadly, while within arm's reach of pure joy, it has left many within arm's reach of total destruction as well. It all has to do with how one deals with "Ought".

### AN ANIMAL NEVER CONSIDERS WHAT HE "OUGHT" TO DO

The animal's prime motive is to survive. When survival is assured, if only for a little while, an animal may entertain the idea of play, *i.*e., only a kitten with its belly full and whose fur is warm and dry considers playfully the ball of yarn that otherwise sat motionless in the center of the room.

The similarity is striking when we compare the animal's instinctive actions with the modern monkey we now attempt to present to the Almighty as the residual of His human creation - mankind. Life for the twenty-first century primate human seems to be not much more than trying to move from dire and dismal displeasure (and/or discomfort) toward a mere lesser dissatisfaction. Any tiny increase perceived as improvement, every addition of ostensible necessity, only carries us sorry, sinful humans, into a manufactured hope. Seemingly, we are ever moving further away from our wretchedness and toward... WHAT?

#### AHH...THERE IS THE RUB!

As the kitten with warm body and full belly is willing now to unravel your new angora sweater, so, sorry mankind gets foolish ideas of momentary, incremental gratification (usually regarded as recreation) when we, too, feel a blush of momentary satisfaction. However, the kitten can play with *impunity*; *Man cannot*.

The kitten has no "Oughts" with which to contend. It never crosses the mind of the feline that she *ought* to be doing something else instead of merely playing with an intriguing piece of string. Man was bestowed with reason, conception, thought – no matter whether the peculiar conception of "Ought" is considered a blessing or curse it is ours, none-the-less.

(Continued on page 2)

## Red Letter Edition



Thank you for the wonderful time that we had. It was a new experience for us and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The kids are already asking what we are going to do next year. Thanks and Shalom (AZ)

...we had the time of our lives at this years Feast...the Father really walked

among us. We fell in love with every person there this year. The campfire chats and quiet times were wonderful, the teachings and the reading/ discussion of the Law was amazing. Most of all, visiting with all of our inherited family that we absolutely cannot wait to see again next year was the highlight. Thank y'all for being obedient to provide a place to participate in what the Father asks of us.

I want to let y'all know that Don mentioned something at the Feast that has changed our life. I am telling you this because I think it is encouraging to know if what you are saying and doing is making a difference.

I used to get sooooo discouraged when I would take the time to spend with my Father and would never "hear" anything. I would feel his presence and that was great but then I would get sleepy or allow myself to get distracted and it was so frustrating. Then I guit trying all together because I felt it was a waste of time... my [husband] spends lots of quite time and has for many years but he had started getting frustrated, too. At the Feast you said for us not to worry if we didn't hear anything that YHVH likes to talk to us in secret so we don't get prideful. WELL, now since we guit trying so hard to hear and are now just enjoying our time with Him It has literally changed our lives forever!!!! We are both receiving guidance and our relationships with Him has FOREVER changed. Love y'all and thank you both! (TX)

...it has been quite a journey, since working in the eastern part adjacent to Mozambique. It is obvious that Yeshua is changing the direction of my life, and as such, I have surrendered myself to the fact that I am but clay. To any casual observer it is clear that the world is out of control and that there are forces at work which are beyond any reasonable explanation. I am grateful for and love you guys and I will be following your latest initiative. (DURBAN, SO. AFRICA)

#### Dear Don

Just want to tell how much I look forward to hearing [the new Red Letter Edition – WEEKDAYS!] program. I was very pleased to find out it comes on 3 times a day. I love the early morning show, but it's not always easy to listen then, with breakfast and getting [husband] off. I also like the hour format. It's just right and leaves me wanting to hear more...Don, I'm thankful for your continued obedience to the Father! I see the results with all that TRI ministry is accomplishing. (TX)

(Continued from page 1)

"Ought" guides the responsible guy while aggravating the *playful* man. "Ought" is a strong force with which we have dealt in many ways. The origin of this force is hard to pinpoint. Some people have a *rulebook* of sorts in their mind formed over years of instruction. Parents, clergy, respected authorities alike have added their entries into this rulebook. Some warnings of behavioral infractions are legitimate – and some are NOT!

The thinking Christian is left to question the guidance received from his own mind and doubt whether or not he should follow. The conversation in his rebellious head goes something like, "I know I *ought* to do this, but...really...who says so?" and that is very good question! Let's explore this concept.

#### WHO TOLD YOU THAT?

The Bible uses an interesting phrase, "Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron". (1 Timothy 4:2) When I read this, I became intrigued with the idea of my conscience being seared. I know what it is like having my fingers seared by hot steel. (Being hasty to inspect a newly arc-welded seam introduced me to this concept in just a second or two!) For days afterward, the sensitivity of my fingerprintless digits was quite noticeable.

There is more to say about the *incompatibility* and the *mutual exclusivity* of joy from an unsatisfied "Ought". Adding the notion, "*I ought to be washing the dishes*" to the most relaxing and comfortable cup of tea may allow physical comfort, but it will **never** allow joy along with it.

Proverbs 10:22, "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." Joy is experienced only when we engage the LORD'S blessing by living in a clear conscience, that is by living in obedience to His voice telling us what we ought to do.

The lack of ability to discern the origin of their guilt feelings is a problem shared by many. Don't worry! Don't panic! **Obedience is the key to discernment.** 

Before you consider the following passage from the book of James, try to remember that "the word" is the voice of your conscience — it is the verbalized

(Continued on page 3)

## Red Letter Edition.

(Continued from page 2)

I appreciate your voice. You make me/us think. I don't always agree, but I love the fact that you say that it's ok. The thing I am finding interesting is how I (or anyone) reads or listens and forms an opinion on scripture, and later you can read or hear it from someone else's view and be changed or have your opinion changed. When you had that guest you ate up and spit out, I have thought similarly about what he was saying when Paul talks about the good I would do or should do I don't do. My question is not about that question, but our thought process with these issues. The natural thing is to say well Jesus is coming inside us and helping us understand better (not that I understand anything personally), or is this anything to do with the parable having eyes they do not see having ears they do not hear? ...can the scriptures mean different things to different people for different reasons at different times? Anyway, keep doing what you're doing... you're a role model to me and a lot of us who won't do like you because you told us not to, hmm maybe we should just try to be like Christ there is an idea. Sorry I gave you any credit but we love you anyway! (CT)

It is a privilege to have received from you, this month's mail. It is quite informative: seeing the pictures of the feasts that i so much would really love to attend. I must confess, some things come to my mind even before i get them through your mails! Its has not been easy over here. People are like "WHAT!!!" when they hear that i don't attend 'church'. I simply tell them: "I AM THE CHURCH, SO HOW CAN THE CHURCH GO TO CHURCH?" God bless and keep you to keep preaching the Word. (LAGOS, NIGERIA)

I enjoy listening to you every night on KKVV radio, Las Vegas. Keep up the good work God Bless, (NEW – NV)

[We] really enjoyed today's Red Letter Edition -- lots of info compacted in a short amount of time. We would like to view it again. When will it be rebroadcast?

Thanks so much for sending Spirit of Grace and the Change Agents CD. I really feel that my mind is being renewed as things are becoming clearer and clearer -- things I know have not been revealed by flesh and blood. Don, sometimes when you talk about how people tell you not to be "mean" I think about that and wonder about your abruptness. I know you must be frustrated at times when people just don't get it, especially when we see time slipping away and people's hearts growing colder. Then I think that maybe if you were perfectly "delicate" (Did that man actually use that word today?) people might put you on a pedestal and revere you and then Yehovah could not use you like He does. So, even though I wince at times, I hope to have your courage when put to the test. Blessings to you all (NM)

Notes: Dear Don and Pam, Shalom I am new to the Hebrew roots and are hungry for the TRUTH. Please send me what ever I can use to grow closer to Abba YHVH Pray for the blessings from Abba for both of you and your family...Please pray for us, (NEW -W.CAPE, SO. AFRICA)

(Continued from page 2)

"Oughts": "But be ye doers of the word (obedience), and not hearers only (merely being aware of conviction), deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, (his conscience) and not a doer, (disobedient to it) he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was." (James 1:22-24)

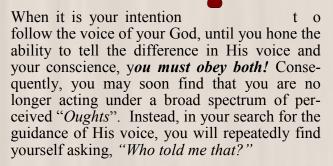
When we forget what kind of people we are... we become more insensitive and more *un*-conscience.

#### **HOW SENSITIVE IS YOUR CONSCIENCE?**

We may not be able to manipulate well the contents of our conscience, but we can control our adherence to it. If you are learning to hear the voice of God, learn to obey your conscience without fail. Obedience alone has within it a tremendous power! To obey your conscience, (even if it is misguided or wrong) has great merit. It places **weight** on the importance of *accuracy* in your thinking. It forces recognition of your obligation to consider the consequences of your actions. No more are your actions excusable by habit, perceived obligation to tradition, or even respect of an elder. Your actions are a result of YOUR decisions. They are YOUR responsibility.

#### THE RED LETTERS:

"Ye have heard that it was said ...But I say..." Matthew 5:21-22



That is a good question and it *ought* to have an honest answer.

