

LYING TO GOD IN SONG

(Matt. 12:33-37)

Introduction:

1. How good it is to assemble with the saints and offer up our heart felt praises to God and our dedicated encouragement to one another.
2. But we must consider our words when we engage in such blessed activities, after all, we shall be judged by our words.
3. Let us consider this morning a parable, a command, and finally a question.

Discussion:

I. A Parable (Matt. 21:28-32).

- A. Context = Jesus has just entered Jerusalem (the triumphal entry) and went back out to spend the night in Bethany. On the way back to Jerusalem He cursed the fig tree for not bearing any fruit when He was there and hungry (Jews not bearing fruit worthy of Him being there). Jesus went to the temple and began teaching. He was interrupted by religious authorities asking about His authority. Jesus silenced them with His question about John's authority. Then Jesus tells the parable of the two sons.
- B. Primary lesson is one of rebuke to the religious leaders who should have been serving God's will (they affirmed that they were and had all the appearance of doing so), but they were not. They actually were working against God's will. But the sinners of the day were serving God's will by believing and being baptized.
- C. Secondary lesson is one of rebuke for us today who have said that we will serve God's will according to His word if we do not fully serve His will (cp. Matt. 23:23 and Jas. 2:10-12).

II. A Command (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).

- A. In the worship of God, Christians are to worship in spirit and "truth" (John 4:24). Part of that worship is in the singing of songs of praise to God and of instruction one to another.
- B. Christians are to sing these songs from the heart, not just the lungs and larynx (cp. Matt. 15:8).
- C. Christians must sing the truth and not lies (Titus 1:10, 11; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:27, 22:15; John 8:44).

III. A Question (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

- A. Do we lie to God in song?
 1. We often sing "All to Jesus I Surrender", but do we? Do we intend to?
 2. We often sing "Trust and Obey", but do we? Do we intend to?
 3. We often sing "What a Friend We Have in Jesus", but do we treat Him as such? Do we intend to?
- B. Do we lie to one another in song?
 1. We often sing "Let Him Have His Way with Thee", but do we? Do we intend to?
 2. We often sing "Farther Along", but do we mean it and seek to cheer up our brother? Do we intend to?
 3. We often sing "The Gospel is for All", but do we live that? Do we intend to?
- C. Do we condemn ourselves in our worship to God (cp. 1 Cor. 11:27-29)?
- D. Consider the hard word's of Heb. 10:26ff.

Conclusion:

1. One of the aspects of the Gospel that makes it such truly good news is that at any moment we can take full advantage of it and be cleansed from all sin. If we continue in that glorious grace we have an inheritance in heaven.
2. Let us consider our words and not sing empty phrases of deceit to God or our brethren. Instead, let us sing forth the truth of God's glory and grace and struggle together in peace to heaven.
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “LYING TO GOD IN SONG”

1. Consider some other passages:
 - A. Matt. 10:38.
 - B. Luke 9:62 (note Luke 9:23).
 - C. Matt. 26:23, 24.
 - D. Heb. 6:1-12.

2. Consider some truths concerning worship.
 - A. Worship = “homage or reverence paid to a deity, esp. in a formal service”; “the acts, rites, or ceremonies of worship”; “adoration or devotion comparable to religious homage shown towards a person or principle”.
 1. Notice that worship is something paid to another it is NEVER for the worshiper.
 2. When we pay our bills we get nothing except the knowledge of having done right and the expectation of continuing to receive the service we are paying for.
 - B. Singing is one of the commanded means of worshipping God. In song we praise God and encourage one another to serve/trust God. It is God focused with reciprocal benefits, no different than “shining our light that men may glorify God” (Matt. 5:16).
 - C. If we lie in our singing we are not praising God but mocking Him, and the body of His Son, the church.
 - D. Remember that God is present always but especially when we worship Him. If we lie in our worship we draw near to His throne and lie to His very face! The Son who died for us is with us too and we commit the heinous sin of Heb. 10:29.

3. Singing in worship to our God ought to be one of the most sobering and moving experiences of our lives. It ought to be much more like our observance of the Lord’s Supper than the singing in a car on a long trip. All that God has done for us ought to be front and foremost in our minds as we pour out our heart in song to our God and our Savior, and our fellow saints.

DO NOT LIE TO GOD IN SONG