

Whom God Hath Sent

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

John 3:34. "For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." Jesus speaks of Himself in this verse, but the fact is also true that any person sent by God will speak the words of God. If he has an agenda, or mission, it is to serve both God and man, by presenting God's message. No other message will do the work of God. When a person, church, or denomination, preaches something different from what God has said, it is a false message.

Whether by accident, or design, a false message is hurtful to the person and to the work of God. Many people today, and throughout history, do not come to the Lord because of false doctrines. Some even dare to teach that sin is alright in the sight of God. Common sense will tell us better than that. Jesus didn't come to this earth and suffer death on the cross

so that we could live in sin. He died to save us from sin, not that we could continue in sin. A Christian might err, but he will not continue to live in sin. If anyone teaches that sin is no big deal, get away from such a deceiver. Seek the truth and those who want to earnestly follow the way of God.

For the Christian, there is no example but Jesus. A reading of the gospels will show us his example of serving God. **John 6:38.** "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." To do God's will was, and is, of the utmost importance to those who want to follow God. Man, doing his own will, brought sin into the world, but, doing God's will leads to life eternal.

John 12:49-50. "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak." Again Jesus points out that He is giving God's counsel to the world. It is

God who set the standard of what is sin and what is righteous. No one else has the authority, although many have taught their own worldly doctrines claiming to be serving the Lord.

Luke 4:16. "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read." Jesus taught both by word and by example. On the day of worship he went to the house of God. Whenever able to do so, a Christian is to be in the house of God. Those who say that they worship God in the field, while they hunt, or fish, or do some other worldly pleasure are only fooling themselves. What they are really saying is, they care more for God's creation than for the Lord himself. God's house and work is neglected while they do their own will.

1 Peter 2:21. "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

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PARABLES - THE GREAT INSTRUMENT OF TEACHERS!

IN BIBLICAL TIMES, THE OLD STORY-TELLER, THE RECITER OF PARABLES WAS THE TEACHER, THE INSTRUCTOR OF THE PEOPLE—HIS CLASS-ROOM WAS ANY CONVENIENT STREET CORNER WHERE YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE LISTENED TO WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. THIS METHOD, AGES BEFORE THE PRINTED BOOK, WAS JUST ABOUT THE ONLY WAY TO INFORM. THOSE WHO COULD READ THE WRITTEN WORD WERE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN SO, BY WORD OF MOUTH, HISTORY WAS PASSED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER—BUT THE PARABLE WAS MORE THAN JUST HISTORY—IT PRESENTED TO THE LISTENER MORAL ETHICS, IT MADE HIM PONDER ON WHAT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND WHAT WAS WRONG! WHEN JESUS BEGAN HIS MINISTRY, HE RECITED THE LAW, HE GAVE HIS "SERMON ON THE MOUNT" BUT THESE DIRECT TEACHINGS WERE MUCH TOO STERN AND DEMANDING—AND TURNED MANY PEOPLE AWAY....



...BUT WHEN JESUS BEGAN TO ILLUSTRATE HIS SERMONS WITH THE WELL-KNOWN FORM OF THE PARABLE, THE COMMON MAN COULD UNDERSTAND HIM, COULD PLACE HIMSELF IN THE STORIES—A FISHERMAN COULD GET THE POINT IN "THE NET CAST INTO THE SEA", A HERDER COULD WELL UNDERSTAND "THE LOST SHEEP", AND A FARMER "THE SEED CAST INTO THE GROUND" AND, THROUGH THIS TRADITIONAL METHOD, JESUS' TEACHINGS BEGAN TO SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE!

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