

LEARNING SOMETHING FROM NOTHING

Mark 15:1-5

Introduction:

- A. In our text Jesus said nothing. Sometimes it is best to say nothing.
- B. This morning we are going to attempt to learn something from "nothing."
- C. Most preachers preach about something;
- D. Some preachers preach on love and the grace of God. Others may preach on the perils of denominationalism.
- E. However, in this lesson today we are going to attempt to learn that we all can greatly profit by knowing something about "nothing."
- F. How does "nothing" greatly effect our lives?

DISCUSSION:

I. GOD CREATED THE WORLD FROM NOTHING

Gen 1:1,2 See Job 26:7

- A. This account is contrary to modern evolution theories.
- B. If God said it we need to believe it Gen 1:3-10, 12; Psa 33:8,9 (emphasize "Let there be")
- C. Who is man to guess?

II. WE CAN DO NOTHING WITHOUT CHRIST Jhn 15:1-6

- A. Living a good moral life simply isn't good enough
- B. Heaven is a reward - not a right!
- C. Morality minus Christ = nothing. Jhn 15:4,5
 1. There is no way to heaven without Christ! Matt 1:21; Jhn 14:6
 2. Come to Christ by obedience. Heb 5:8,9

III. BELIEF MINUS BAPTISM EQUALS NOTHING

- A. Compare Mk 16:16 with simple math $1+1=2$.
 1. Some teach that upon belief one is saved.
 2. Then baptism is optional
 3. Where's the Scripture for such?
- B. What if the Eunuch had not been baptized Acts 8:35-38
 1. Belief nothing without baptism
 2. Devils believe Jas 2:19
 3. How sad for some when they realize it is too late
Matt. 7:22

IV. REPENTANCE MINUS BAPTISM EQUALS NOTHING

- A. Repentance + baptism = remission of sins Acts 2:37-38
- B. (Repentance (Rom 6:3-6) + Baptism = Salvation) just as $(1+1=2)$ therefore (Repentance – Baptism = 0) just as $(1-1=0)$
- C. When were Paul's sins washed away? Acts 22:16

V. RELIGIOUS ACTS MINUS LOVE EQUALS NOTHING

- A. What are the motives behind the religious acts we do?
1Cor 13:1-3
- B. Love is the core of our Christian life Matt 22:37-38
 1. No greater love than Jesus Christ 1Jhn 3:16; Phil 2:7,8
 2. We are to follow in this example! 1Pet 2:21
- C. Lack of love cause of many problems in the church today!
 1. Let brotherly love continue. Heb 13:1
 2. Don't waste time, effort, energy doing things without love

VI. CHRISTIANS CAN BECOME GOOD FOR NOTHING

- A. Salt a metaphor for Christian. Have you lost your savor?
Matt 5:13
- B. Dead Christians and dead congregations Rev 3:1-3
- C. Make sure you haven't lost your savor! Prov 13:7

CONCLUSION:

- A. We can learn much from "nothing,"
- B. We must become nothing before we can be something
- C. We must forsake self - give up self - to be what God wants us to be.

(From Matt Allen revised by JLH)