THE PARABLE

Of God Stepping Out of Eternity



See that young man witnessing to a careless and obstinate sinner? Can you hear him quote one *Bible* verse after another? However, the unbeliever seems unmoved, even agitated. See now, with every verse quoted and applied, the sinner becomes more stubborn, more rebellious, and more volatile? By-and-by the young Christian becomes discouraged, wondering what else he might *say* or *do* to influence the hardened rebel. He wonders why his feeble attempt to witness is such a failure.

The fact is, the young man is no failure. Quoting the *Scriptures* is the highest and purest testimony for *Christ*, so the young man has nothing to be ashamed of (*2 Tim 4:1-2*). He has been a fine witness. We can only, as it were, *bring men to Christ* by declaring *God's Word* (*Tit 1:3*), we cannot make men believe and follow Him. Moreover, remember it's not that sinners are *victims* that need more information, but rather, they are culprits who willfully reject both the intrinsic testimonies of *nature* and *conscience* (*meaning* '*with knowledge*'; *Rom 1:19-20, 2:14-16*). Hence, sinners have no excuse for their unbelief as they *suppress the truth of God* in a feeble attempt to justify their sin and autonomy, which they love (*Rom 1:18*). To demonstrate this truth, consider the following illustration…

Imagine the young man, after quoting several applicable *Scripture* verses, having the ability to reach back and unzip eternity, does so where *Christ* Himself steps out to confront the sinner. What do you suppose *Jesus* would say? Why, of course, He would quote the *Word* and nothing but His *Word* because He is the *Word* (*Jn 1:1; 3:34*)…the same thing the young Christian was previously quoting. Nonetheless, it's unlikely the sinner, who was already rejecting *God* and *His Word* via the Christian, would respond any differently.

So it is, the *Scriptures* are God's very *Words*. God commands all men believe His *Word* because it is reasonable to do so. His *Words* are self-evident. They are self-authenticating. They are super-charged with divine power. Thus, no one has an excuse not to believe God at His *Word*. If sinners reject *God* and *what He says*, it shouldn't surprise us they will reject us as we quote *what God said*.

It's accurately said that '*unbelief*' is merely the refusal of sinners to be convinced because of selfish and sinful motivations. The sinner *can't* find God for the same reason criminals *can't* find the police station…*they don't want to, because they love their sin.* So, don't be wearied in well-doing thou faithful pilgrim. Unashamedly declare the *Bible*. If they reject you quoting *God's Word*, be encouraged, they're only consistently doing what they've already done: reject the *Lord Jesus*, who is the *Word of God.*

–B.W.

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