



Devotional Thoughts :: The Piercing Question -Chambers

The Piercing Question -Chambers - posted by Forevidence (), on: 2006/3/1 10:02

[Image: <https://www.sermonindex.net/images/myutmost.gif>]

The Piercing Question

Do you love Me?
 —John 21:17

Peter's response to this piercing question is considerably different from the bold defiance he exhibited only a few days before when he declared, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!" (Matthew 26:35 ; also see Matthew 26:33 -34). Our natural individuality, or our natural self, boldly speaks out and declares its feelings. But the true love within our inner spiritual self can be discovered only by experiencing the hurt of this question of Jesus Christ. Peter loved Jesus in the way any natural man loves a good person. Yet that is nothing but emotional love. It may reach deeply into our natural self, but it never penetrates to the spirit of a person. True love never simply declares itself. Jesus said, "Whoever confesses Me before men , him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God" (Luke 12:8).

Unless we are experiencing the hurt of facing every deception about ourselves, we have hindered the work of the Word of God in our lives. The Word of God inflicts hurt on us more than sin ever could, because sin dulls our senses. But this question of the Lord intensifies our sensitivities to the point that this hurt produced by Jesus is the most exquisite pain conceivable. It hurts not only on the natural level, but also on the deeper spiritual level. "For the Word of God is living and powerful . . . , piercing even to the division of soul and spirit . . ." — to the point that no deception can remain (Hebrews 4:12). When the Lord asks us this question, it is impossible to think and respond properly, because when the Lord speaks directly to us, the pain is too intense. It causes such a tremendous hurt that any part of our life which may be out of line with His will can feel the pain. There is never any mistaking the pain of the Lord's Word by His children, but the moment that pain is felt is the very moment at which God reveals His truth to us.

For more info: (<http://www.rbc.org/utmost/>) <http://www.rbc.org/utmost/>

Re: The Piercing Question -Chambers - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/3/1 15:26

Quote:
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That's powerful

Re: Must I Listen? - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/3/4 11:47

“And they said unto Moses, *Speak thou with us and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.*” Exodus 20:19

We do not consciously disobey God, we simply do not heed Him. God has given us His commands; there they are, but we do not pay any attention to them, not because of wilful disobedience but because we do not love and respect Him. "If ye love Me, ye will keep My commandments." When once we realize that we have been "disrespecting" God all the time, we are covered with shame and humiliation because we have not heeded Him.

"Speak thou with us...but let not God speak with us." We show how little we love God by preferring to listen to His servants only. We like to listen to personal testimonies, but we do not desire that God Himself should speak to us. Why are we so terrified lest God should speak to us? Because we know that if God does speak, either the thing must be done or we must tell God we will not obey Him. If it is only the servant's voice we hear, we feel it is not imperative, we can say, "Well, that is simply your own idea, though I don't deny it is probably God's truth."

Am I putting God in the humiliating position of having treated me as a child of His whilst all the time I have been ignoring Him? When I do hear Him, the humiliation I have put on Him comes back on me - "Lord, why was I so dull and so obstinate?" This is always the result when once we do hear God. The real delight of hearing Him is tempered with shame in having been so long in hearing Him.

Oswald Chambers

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2006/3/4 12:49

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I suspect that when Peter said to Christ, "Depart from me for I am a sinner," he meant, "Go away Lord because I can't stand and looking at myself."

Indeed, the Light is bright and unbearable when sin lurks in our heart - or really, we just see our fallen condition. Yet, how precious is his cleansing and restoration.

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A key point to consider when trying to understand our need for repentance!
Diane