

I recently saw a meme that showed a takeaway from Louis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland." It was a scene from the encounter with the Cheshire Cat where the cat was sitting on a tree branch with a toothy grin from ear to ear. The cat was asking Alice, "If you don't know where you are going, what difference does it make which path you take?" Oh! I instantly connected with that thought and stared at it for several minutes. It brought back many memories of such encounters I personally had and/or have personally witnessed.

One indelible memory seared into my mind was my first grade in school and our weekly visits to the school library. On the library wall was a banner that read, "What is the difference between a man who can not read and a man who does not read?" I kept staring at that banner over time and resolved that my academic duty would be to read the material and learn the lessons. I wanted to learn how and why we know what we know. What is the path to that knowledge? What path does our knowledge lead us to? I thought about God a lot and decided that the path God laid out for His children, His people, is through His Son and His Kingdom which is the Church. I declared that I wanted to be baptized into Christ and was.

I did not know how protected, insulated and isolated my life was until I left home and was out into the world. I found that my understanding and definitions of Christ and His Church did not match anyone else's. I was told I didn't know anything if I believed that baptism was necessary to be in Christ. I was asked, "What difference does it make how we came to salvation? If we can say we believe in Christ, then God has granted us His Spirit, and we are saved." I said, "Huh? What's the difference between the man who applies for and gets a passport to enter a foreign country and a man who thinks he should be let in just because he shows up at the gates? Is there a path to apply for citizenship in God's Kingdom or do you believe that it's a lottery and either you have won or you have lost? You do see the difference between those two thoughts don't you?"

I heard over and over again that Christianity was a "Morality" religion like all "great religions" in the world. My faith was continuously questioned and I was challenged to explain the difference in how someone became moral or the source of that morality whether it was through the Muslims, Buddhists, Hinduism, Judaism or Christianity? Why was I so judgmental as to say only Christianity produced morality? I answered that Christ did not call us to be moral. The Jews were moral and they condemned Christ for associating with, and caring about, immoral people. In Christ we see God. We come to know our Heavenly Father, our creator, and therefore see to love Him so that morality is a

natural consequence of our devotion to God. Any sentient being expects morality from another sentient being but only Christ has revealed God to us.

I wanted to know what was the difference between the man who doesn't care that God has given us His Son to live in harmony with and the man who doesn't even believe there is a God?

What is the difference between the one who thinks they know better, they know different than God's word on the conduct, the path, The Way, He expects of His disciples, His followers, and the one who doesn't believe in God at all?

God has done everything in His power to bring us to Him and His desired family. What is the difference between he who says, "If God wants me, He knows where to find me." and the one who just doesn't care that God has set a table for His family?

Four books in the New Testament are called "The Gospels," Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. They are called the gospels because they chronical the life of Christ and His ministry which consisted of His preaching, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand." The Gospel is the revelation that the Kingdom of God is now here and open because of the life's ministry, death, burial and resurrection of Christ Jesus. The Gospel is that the call has gone out for all to enter into the kingdom. The "Moralist" has ignored the call to be in the kingdom and checks to see if God has taken hold of you by whether or not you conform to his particular idea of morality; do you drink coffee? You're immoral. Do you eat meat? You're immoral. Do you go to a doctor? You're immoral. Do you play a musical instrument while worshiping God? You're immoral. I could go on and on.

The Gospel of Matthew chapter 22 records a parable Christ told of the kingdom in the first 14 verses;

(1) Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying,

(2) "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

(3) "And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come.

(4) "Again he sent out other slaves saying, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast." '

(5) "But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to to his business,

(6) and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them.

(7) "But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire.

(8) "Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy.'

(9) 'Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.'

(10) "Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests."

The difference we are looking for is not who is evil or who is good but whether there is a response to the call to come to the Lord's table. I guarantee that of all the many churches, the many faiths, represented around here very, very few, if any, have the Lord's table even offered. They are johnnie on the spot to tell you how to be moral but have no idea what the gospel is concerning the Lord's invite to His table.

The Lord Himself said, "Do this in remembrance of Me." This stuff is not hard. This stuff is not hard. Not hard to understand, not hard to do. We have the loaf representing Christ's body beaten and broken as sacrifice for us. We have the cup which represents the New Covenant in Christ's blood shed for us. This we do in remembrance of Christ at His request. It may not make a difference in our immediate physical state but it makes all the difference in our eternal stand.