

INTRODUCTION TO 4 MEN

Once a man comes to personally know Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord, the call and gifting of God on his life tends to either lean more toward grace, or more toward truth.

A man with pastoral or mercy gifts will be likely to lean a little heavier toward grace. One gifted in the prophetic, preaching, or evangelism might lean a little heavier toward truth.

This is the exact point that Satan loves to infiltrate with unspiritual error to cause separation and division in the Body of Christ, through criticism, and judgment.

One with mercy gifting, has been know on occasion to be accused of giving others a license to sin because he ignored unchecked sin in another believer's life. The man leaning more toward truth has been know on occasion to be accused of being judgmental and legalistic when pressing the issue of practiced sin in another brother's life.

Both men can base their position on scripture found in the Bible. By camping in their preferred place, (grace or truth), instead of joining in genuine cooperation toward restoration of a brother caught up in sin, they find themselves caught up in fleshly thinking, regarding a spiritual matter. Instead of resting in Jesus they become worried in the flesh, and useless to be used as tools of restoration, for a fallen brother.

John 1:17 says, "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ". Jesus Christ fulfilled the law perfectly. It is through him the grace for fallen man exists, and He is the only One where all truth resides.

As a man of God I have no excuse to lean on anything but Jesus Christ. I choose to rest my heart and life upon Him, through which grace and truth are realized.

It isn't in our works of righteousness that we or anyone else can be saved. It isn't our understanding of truth that saves anyone. It is the One that is the truth that saves them.

It isn't our understanding of grace that saves them; it is the One who provided salvation by His grace that saves them.

The hope of every man, woman or child is found in Jesus Christ, alone. Through Him alone, righteousness, grace, and truth are realized.

Please remember this as you read the following poem. It is only through a personal encounter with Jesus Christ that the fatherless, the father wounded, and especially those spiritually disconnected from the Heavenly Father will find true restoration, and recovery.

He is the hope, He is the answer.

4 MEN

Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."
Multitudes gathered, but most hearts remained a closed, dark, earthy den.

You see, each heart starts out sinful - closed in by the walls of its own little kingdom.
To break up the stony ground of the heart requires surrender of all, not just a small sum.

What kind of father; what kind of man would others say best describes you?
The guy that runs with most of the crowd, or are you one among the righteous few.

To be a righteous man simply means forgiven, and set by the Savior - right side up,
An imperfect father hoping to get back into the saddle; his first step in the stirrup.

Read the following accounts of the rich man, as well as the fellow that is righteous,
Do you see in the mirror one of those two, or maybe the religious or the rebellious?

Peter was one of the first of the few that heartily heeded the Master's call.
Leaving everything behind, even his fishing nets, he surrendered it all.

But his all drew up short when challenged and questioned, as he warmed by the fire,
Jesus prophesied, "three times you'll deny knowing me" - in that moment a cowardly liar

Jesus would suffer and die for Peter as well, shedding blood on that man-made cross,
Later to call to him three times, "feed My sheep, My lambs", Jesus removed the dross.

Forgiven, and full of the Spirit, his heart ablaze with the call of eternal purpose,
Restored to relationship with his heavenly Father, the seed for new life surfaced.

As he sowed his life into the Kingdom, mustard seeds of eternity were widely spread.
One of the first common men, spiritually alive, yet considered by most, the same as dead.

Peter's yielded life took shape as he obeyed - one sent out by a loving, fatherly God,
His name echoes in eternity, while the worldly famous of his day, just forgotten old sod.

Peter is our first man – he trusted in the Savior - surrendering all to the Lord and King,
A soul bearing martyr, one mans life spent on earth, sounding an eternal ring, ring, ring.

The second is a rebel, a self-preserving man after his own selfish and sinful heart,
He doesn't give much thought to others - in this world they play for him, a small part.

He's a man like many of us – a good ole boy - we'll call him Billy Bob,
Just another desperado in the crowd; that listened to Jesus, and had a job.

A hard working tax payer, maybe even likeable, to his family and friends,
But a black hole in his heart scribes a dark message into eternity, it sends.

An idea about God he has formed and shaped – his own intellectual making,
His life; people, possessions, prosperity, and purpose- it's all for his taking.

What was the source- where did good-ole-boy Bob's blessed life come from?
Did luck strike the opportunity, ability, and physical strength that missed some?

You worked hard and smart Billy Bob, but where did your talent and ability originate?
As a steward of God's provision, do you feel you have the right to simply grab and take?

And this idea that you can shape God in your own image, originates where?
If you think you are the god of your world, try to draw breath, without air.

Driven by his thoughts, desires, and appetites, whatever makes him feel good,
Generally speaking it is common, pretty much normal for him to cuss and be rude.

His life will be emptied out in hopeless self-indulgence, if he doesn't relent,
Eternity waits for his life, dry wood to be tossed into the fire, wasted and spent.

It's not too late for him yet today - if he bows his knee, repents, and surrenders his all,
Jesus will be the first to meet him, to restore him from this life, the effects of sins fall.

The third man is described in the Bible in the parable of the rich young fool,
His land brought forth plenty of fruit - he thought it was his personal saving tool.

He forgot he was simply a steward of God's earth, not the Creator and owner in kind,
Deceived, he believed he owned the source of his fragile life; in that, he foolishly dined.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life" - feed on me and be forgiven and reconciled forever,
Or try to save yourself, with what you think you own, no, that's not very smart or clever.

The rich fool says to his soul. "Take your rest now. Eat, drink, and make good cheer!"
God says, "You fool, this night I require your soul, what again was that you hold dear?"

So it is for the man that lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God,
To reverse that curse, you simply trust in Jesus, yielding it all with a humble nod.

True fortune grows only when it is lost and forgotten in the service of heaven,
The problem isn't money, it's when money becomes your life; it becomes your leaven.

So if you have sins and means that you haven't surrendered to the Savior and Lord,
This is a good time to re-think – to do it; you don't want to be one of the rich horde.

The call for each one of us is the great commission to our world, as one that is to go,
If you are one of his stewards of means, listen to His voice and undergird others that sow.

The fourth man can be found in church pews across our nation, far and wide,
He believes in Jesus, goes to church, and is numbered on the Christian side.

But something didn't take when he started showing up to church for the first time,
He liked the idea of Jesus, but instead of giving the full dollar, he tossed in a dime.

He said, "I'll take the get out of hell card and the Jesus sticker for my lapel.
But there are parts of my life that I'm not ready to repent of, give up, or to tell."

Count me among the Christian bunch; I like the fellowship and the lively song
What's that you say? Something about what I live and believe, is horribly wrong?

To know the Lord requires a surrendered life, you've been bought with a price,
Your good works and tithe don't fill the gap, Mr. Religion - they'll never suffice.

Remember the Devil knows the Word and believes in Jesus so much he shudders in fright
The shrinking path before him, a dark light in the approaching distance, a horrible sight.

The first man, a saved sinner, heard the Great Shepherds voice and willingly obeyed,
Choosing to lose ones life for His sake, it's by grace, but there's no cheap way to be saved.

The second man, the rebel, a good-ole-boy, handy for a laugh and slap on the back,
If he draws his last breath without Jesus as his Lord; he'll greet hells eternal smack.

The third one, a rich man, tends to forget who created and still owns all the earth,
Surrender all to God, and become a good steward as you experience the new birth.

The fourth man declares his own righteousness, but his works fall short of paying his way
The blood of Jesus and true repentance is the only thing that can break the religious bray.

You might be a preacher, a banker, a rancher, a politician, or one of those rodeo cowboys
A trucker, a lawyer, teacher, doctor, factory worker or even a salesman of children's toys

Regardless of your lot in life, you probably fall in the category of one of these four men,
50-50 chance, the toss of the dice, as if that could determine you're saved, or condemned.

Here is the nuts and bolts of it all, the answer for all four types of men, the same;
The Father God made way for restoration through Jesus Christ; it is in His precious name

Through one perfect sacrifice, forgiveness of sin and restoration was made complete,
Now for every man, woman, and child – even for the desperado, sin has been beat.

It's not a cheap grace that saves; we have been bought with the blood of the Son,
That's the only sacrifice that we can present to the Father that hits an eternal homerun.

That perfect sacrifice – Jesus death on the cross - has bought us with a great price,
Regardless of vocation surrendering all, yes even our possessions, not just our vice.

It's up to the Lord - he might command you to sell all, and give it to the poor,
It's better to hear His voice as one surrendered, your heart to him an open door.

That missionary that goes preaching or that good work that sends shoes or feeds the poor,
Is just as much my call and responsibility even if my personal going is a closed door.

Lord you might say to some of us called to undergird; to give away 90% and live on 10,
And to keep on working in our given field, and partner with those Gospel preaching men.

Twenty centuries have come and gone since the Savior died on the cross for you and me,
All those that lived during that time, 20 – 100 year lifetimes continue to live in eternity.

What would they say was really important if we had a chance to talk to some of them?
Those, now living 100 years out, will cross over to live redeemed, or condemned.

It makes you think about what is really important to pour your life and effort into,
When a hundred years is only a fly speck, while your time in eternity is still brand new.

So, instead of trying to find your own life, to save it, seeing it grow quickly dim,
Embrace the truth - it's only found when you are willing to lose it all for Him.

Doug Hobelman - 6/30/2013

