

## **A LITTLE ADVICE FOR THE ROAD**

Advice: Something everyone wants to give, but few want to take. Do you ever find yourself asking someone for advice and then not even consider taking it? Why do we do that? Are we really just asking for someone to justify how we feel about the situation and if they tell us something different than we want to hear we don't accept it? Advice really is useless until we put it into action. You have to be careful who you accept advice from and who you don't. You need to make sure the person advising you has the knowledge and is responsible enough to know what to do. If you need help with a situation, don't rely on just anyone for help. Choose someone in whom you have complete trust and know that you can depend on what they say, maybe even someone who has been in the same type of situation through which you are going and came out of it without a scratch.

What if you could ask the advice of someone concerning a situation who already knew what the outcome would be and which turn you should take? Wouldn't that be awesome? We could go to this person for every detail in our lives and if we actually took their advice we would end up exactly where they predicted. Did you know that someone does know everything about your life and has given you much needed advice to help you through all those sticky situations? Jesus Christ knows everything about you and He wants to give you advice to help you through this life. Right before Jesus' earthly ministry was through, He gave some advice for us to live by until He would return. The question is, will we accept His advice or simply shrug it away as we do the advice of others?

Jesus knew that His time on earth was coming to a close and that His disciples would need someone to help them through all their hard times. In his farewell speech to His disciples, Jesus left them with a little advice for the road.

### **THE SECRET TO SUCCESS**

Jesus told His disciples two things in this passage for them to know that they were continuing in the faith and loving Him. The first thing He told them that they must do is to keep His commandments. (15) He wanted them to continue to obey all the commandments even when He wasn't physically there to watch them. He wanted them to remember all the commandments He had taught them and modeled for them. He didn't want them to forget about loving God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, or about loving their neighbors as themselves. The other thing that He wanted to stress to His disciples that would prove their love for Him was for them to keep His word. (23) During the disciples' time they did not have the New Testament written down to follow, but Jesus was asking them to remember the things He had taught them. Today, though, we have the advantage of having Jesus' words and miracles recorded in the New Testament. To show our love to Christ, we should make an effort to keep His word by reading His word. Loving Him means more than words. It requires commitment and action. We are not saved by our good works, but once we are saved we should produce good works in our lives. How will we know how to

react or what to do in certain situations if we have not read the word and discovered the TRUTH?

### **THE SPIRIT TO SUPPORT**

Jesus knew that when He left this earth that His disciples and those to come in the future would need support. He wanted them to know that He would always abide with them through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus called the Spirit the Counselor, someone who will always be with us and can help support and guide us through any situation. (16) Jesus also called the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth. (17) This means that the Holy Spirit is real, genuine, and right in ALL situations. Christ said that the Holy Spirit would come and teach us and remind us of all things. (26) Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to reveal things through His word to us and to remind us of needed scripture during bad situations. The Holy Spirit turns “the light on” in our bible studies and applies them to our lives. The Holy Spirit will help us to apply the TRUTH of God’s word to all of our situations. With the help of the Holy Spirit we can live the TRUTH daily and in all situations.

### **THE SUMMATION TO THE SERVANTS**

The summation is the concluding and summarizing part of the speech. Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He would not be leaving them like orphans. Isn’t that great that our heavenly Father did not want us to be seen as children without parents? He wanted us to still feel loved and cared for even when He couldn’t be with us personally. That is why He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and comfort us in all circumstances. He left us with the hope of peace for all of us. This can be used as a farewell, but also He was hoping for inner contentment for all of us. He did not want our hearts to be troubled. How amazing is it that the Savior of the world cared enough to not want us to be troubled in our hearts? Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us help us live as TRUTH as Jesus lives within us.

That was some advice, huh? Now it is our responsibility to decide whether or not we will accept and use His advice or push it to the side and try to figure things out on our own. Why not accept the advice of the person who knows the ending? We need to stay in the word and keep His commandments and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit to grow in TRUTH!

Amy Carrico