

THE BURDENS OF MEN

25/1/26

God reveals very clearly that He is not our enemy, however, he holds us to high account, for how we represent him. In simple terms, God is revealed by the way he is presented and detailed by his people. The Pharisee leadership mocked God and his son and falsely presented hardships on the people that had nothing to do with God at all. Sadly, many believed them. ISA 53:3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Most of this is a result of how he was presented and spoken about... God's nature was verbally corrupted.

God wants us to clearly know his nature and represent it clearly and effectively.

God's nature. 2PET 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

His Purpose. MAT 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

God wants us to clearly understand his real intension for us.

Based on his word. MAT 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. **35** For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. **36** And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. *The problem is not God, but rather how people interpret or reject God's promises. Self-inflicted pride and ego destroy lives, families and even eternal life itself. People always want God to conform to their world view... people who love the truth are very rare and will be made victims by families, friends and poor leadership.*

37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. **38** And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

God reveals the outcome of poor leadership... pastors, husbands, teachers, wives, etc.

False Burdens. MAT 23:4 For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.

Those who lead or offer support. EZE 34:18 Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have eaten up the good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pastures? and to have drunk of the deep waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet? **19** And as for my flock, they eat that which ye have trodden with your feet; and they drink that which ye have fouled with your feet.

This is how true leadership encourages and conforms to God's nature.

Bearing one another's burdens. GAL 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. *The biggest burdens in life are our sins and hostile family members, not our natural problems (even though some of these can be considerable). Poor leadership or ignorance of God's nature will cause people to stumble.*

There is a dire warning about scriptural ignorance.

Jesus died so we can live. MAT 18:6 But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. **7** Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! *Those who offer their own translation of God's nature rather than His truth... will pay a terrible price.*

We are judged by our choices... not God's.

God will judge by our scriptural choices or rejections. JOH 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. **48** He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

We need to keep our choices in the freedom of God... not in the burdens of men.

THE 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. *This is a way of life, not a one-off decision.*

Is our life a reflection of who God is, or who we are?