

God's Not Mad At You

Pastor Eddie

In a recent interview with an ambassador representing the Kingdom of Heaven, it was reported that God is not mad at people. The surprising announcement came down because in the ambassador's words, "God's motives seemed to have been misunderstood." He mentioned that after the first instructional books written in the ancient days for Israel about how to live well on Earth, men continued to do things to hurt, enslave, and destroy one another. Even those who attempted to follow the ways of the manuals did so with harsh motives and self ambitious methods. This was never the intention of the original manual.

The ambassador went on to explain that people had created a "religion" instead of a relationship. He stated that religion is unhealthy for people, and that when participating in religion men tend to invent their 'god' like themselves. "The problem with this is that God is not like men", he said. The representative went on, "God wants man to strive to rise above where he's been. When one measures himself against God, he sees how far he is from truly being good, but when one measures oneself against another human it doesn't look that bad." This gives a false impression of where a person is living. It is much like using a tape measure or a scale that has no numbers, or fake numbers even; it won't tell one what the actual, accurate measure really is. "Even if you don't like the measurement, you still need it to successfully build anything." And according to him, humans are constantly building themselves for their whole lives, even if they don't realize it. "You're either building yourself up positively, or tearing yourself down; there's no middle ground here."

As far as the whole 'sin' thing in the manuals, he stated that men had misunderstood that as well. Sin is not God trying to strangle the fun out of life, but God trying to set healthy boundaries for mankind. "Any time someone 'sins', someone that God loves gets hurt." He told us that, "sin brings its own bad consequences, it isn't God raining down fire". The original design for men was what it looked like in the Garden of Eden. This is the way God really wanted things to go. And the word, sin, has been hijacked over the years as well. The original word was from an archery term meaning 'to miss the mark'.

So, the decision was made to send a representative directly from the Heavenly kingdom to explain things in person. During His visit, the representative clarified the intentions of the original manuals and attempted to convince those listening that God's true heart was towards people. He was greatly accepted and welcomed by the people that He came into contact with during His visit. He provided new, easier to understand instructions that summarized and

streamlined the older manuals. In his clarifications, he took away some of the practices that had been formerly done, and removed some of the regulations on less critical issues. He then notarized the instructions with His own blood when the Jewish leaders had him executed for speaking against them.

Afterwards, the Kingdom had representatives write down the newer revisions, and send them to communities across the Roman empire. The new followers of the Way began changing things wherever they went, even though they suffered persecution and rejection. The reveal of God's character had so changed the lives of these people that they were willing to go anywhere and suffer anything to spread the news of this incredible revelation. Some of them suffered persecution, beatings, stoning, imprisonment, being burnt, boiled in oil, execution, and more as they travelled the known world of the time getting the word out.

The extent of the rejection of this simple message seemed rather extreme due to the passive nature of the messengers and the message itself. The ambassadors were never known to be violent or aggressive as they went, and yet they were often met with resistance more suited to an invading army than an ambassador.

An amazing feat though, these simple men and women, most with little to no schooling, persisted through insurmountable circumstances to deliver a message that changed the entire world's system of operating. The idea of personal freedom from governments began to be formed in the minds of people along with the idea of a relationship with a God that wanted to know people personally. An entirely new philosophy of life emerged.