

Admissions - cont.

What good is an admission of truth if it is not accepted because of the source? Even evildoers sometimes get it right, don't they?

A Roman centurion made an admission. He admitted that Jesus was the Son of God. He said, "Truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:45-56). But, his admission was too late to stop the death of Jesus (Matthew 27:50).

What good is an admission of truth if it is too late to save or do any good (Matthew 10:32; Philippians 2:11; Revelation 3:5)?

Lessons for Today

When I read these candid admissions of truth, some lessons come to my mind. First, how much do we really love truth. We are to buy the truth and sell it not (Proverbs 23:23)? Second, is truth just something we simply admit, but do not act upon (Romans 10:9-10)? Third, are we willing to make the "good confession" of truth today and stand with Jesus (1 Tim. 6:12-13)? Finally, will we admit truth (confess) now and do something about it before it is too late (Rom. 14:11)?

- Chris Reeves -

Sentence Sermons

- You do not truly learn how to live until you learn how to love.
- The world crowns you for success, but God crowns you for faithfulness.
- If you want to dress for greatness, clothe yourself in humility.
- Faith that fails to obey God is dead and worthless.
- Do not return evil for evil.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

Truthful Admissions

Several surprising and truthful admissions were made on the day of Jesus' death. These admissions, except the one from Jesus, all came from unlikely sources. You would not think that such a person would say such a thing. Also, these admissions were made without any real financial, social, or political gain. One wonders why such a person would say such a thing. Let's see what can we learn from these surprising admissions of truth?

Truth Admissions

Judas made an admission. He admitted that he had betrayed innocent blood. He said: "I have sinned in that I have betrayed innocent blood" (Matthew 27:3,4). Jesus was indeed innocent (Hebrews 4:14-15). But, Judas did not come back to Jesus (Matthew 27:5-10).

What good is an admission of truth that Jesus is innocent, if it doesn't lead us to obey Jesus (1 Peter 1:22)? Why say it if we are not going to act upon it?

Jesus made an admission. He admitted that he was a king. When asked if he was the "King of the Jews," he said: "It is as you say" (Matthew 27:11). Je-

sus indeed was a spiritual king over a spiritual kingdom (Luke 1:32-33; John 18:37; Rev. 19:16). But, the angry religious leaders did not accept Jesus' own words (Matthew 27:12-14).

What good is an admission of truth from Jesus if we are not going to believe it (John 8:24,32)? What good is it to know that Jesus is king if we are not going to submit to him?

Pilate's wife made an admission. She admitted that Jesus was a righteous man. She said: "Have nothing to do with that righteous man..." (Matthew 27:15-19). Jesus was indeed righteous (Acts 3:14). But, Pilate accepted the substitute that was being offered instead of Jesus the righteous man (Matthew 27:20). He perverted justice by putting to death a righteous man.

What good is an admission of truth if we are simply going to accept a substitute (John 17:17; Romans 1:25; 2 Thessalonians 2:12-13)? Why be told the truth if we are simply going to ignore it anyway and listen to a lie?

Pilate himself made an admission. He admitted that Jesus was righteous. When the Jews cried out to crucify Jesus, Pilate said: "Why what evil has he done? ... I am innocent of the blood of this righteous

man (Matthew 27:21-23; Luke 23:4,13-15,22). Pilate knew that Jesus was righteous but he followed the opinion of the majority. Like many people are doing today, he caved to the cries of the angry, selfish mob (Matthew 27:24-26).

What good is an admission of truth if we are going to be a coward and follow the crowd (John 9:22; 12:42; 2 Peter 2:2)? Why strongly admit something that you weakly support?

The crowd made an admission. They admitted that Jesus was a king and a savior. They said: "He is the King of Israel..." (Matthew 27:27-43). But, their admission came from mockery, not sincerity (Matthew 27:29, 41-42).

What good is an admission of truth if it is not sincere (John 3:21)? Why admit something if you really don't mean it?

An unnamed criminal made an admission. He admitted that Jesus was innocent and a king. He said: "...this man has done nothing amiss ... Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom" (Matthew 27:44; Luke 23:39-43). But, the crowd did not accept the word of a criminal. - *continued*