

## What Man Has Missed In Jesus' Message

Today we are starting a new weekly series of thoughts with the theme *"What Man Has Missed In Jesus' Message In The New Testament"*. Perhaps we should add *"misunderstood"* as well as missed. I was inspired to write this new series of Weekly Thoughts by a special show I watched on cable presented by one of those TV Ministries. You know, the ones that beg for money in God's Name. They, their sponsors and patrons have certainly *"missed the message"* of Jesus.

You can't buy Salvation. Jesus certainly didn't intend to foster all the fake churches, con artists and ministries using His Name to raise money for themselves. The pitch ("promise") of the TV ministry I watched, which I have paraphrased here, went like this: pay them money to show you love God and He will bless you with the answer to your prayers, or Salvation or whatever you are seeking. Send them money, plant the "seeds" of faith and something good will happen. Send them \$60 and something good will happen within 60 days.

Really?

Most of us will have at least one good thing happen within 60 days regardless of what we do. And if we are down and out and desperate, like most TV ministry viewers, any little thing that helps us may seem like the promised miracle. Now God may have in fact reached out to help you and you may have even experienced a real miracle. But it was due to your prayer and personal relationship with God and not the \$60 you sent to some scammers on some TV show. Next time just put the money under your pillow or bury it under a rock.

No man nor any church can sell you God's Favors or Salvation. Let's think about the logical absurdity of the premise of Selling Salvation. You could have put \$60 under your pillow or buried it under a rock in your yard and still have had something good happen within 60 days. How many of us go two months, 60 days, without something good happening? The next time you are tempted to gain God's favor or earn Salvation by con artists and scammers, put your credit card away and just bury the money under a rock in your yard.

God saves the deepest recesses of hell for those who profit by making false promises in His Name. The same goes for those who would Sell Salvation. The same scamming ministries will often encourage you to buy and read their book which gives you the Secrets to Salvation. They say; *"buy my book and be saved"*. The price charged for the book is often 50 to 100 times the cost and earns them huge profits on every purchase.

We already have the Secret of Salvation. It's called the Holy Bible. The Word of God. The Good News.

Man can't Sell Salvation. The Catholic Church tried that during the Middle Ages which was one of the factors that precipitated the Protestant Reformation during the Renaissance. I actually heard one of these con artists say; *"sure you may not know where you're going to get that \$60 right now, but have faith and trust in the Lord and it will be returned to you many times over."* Ask how can they dare promise that in His Name.

Now the Lord may choose to relieve your financial, physical or spiritual suffering, but not because you aided and abetted a criminal con artist. These charlatans that would take money from desperate parents and food out of the mouths of hungry children simply to line their own pockets are despicable beyond description. So the next time someone tells you to give money or buy their book to gain God's Favor or Salvation, THINK.

Think about how the answers you seek are in His Book. The Holy Bible. Read yours today. Food for thought.

God Bless!