



A Spiritual Encouragement Message December 11, 2020

Why?

By Andrew Lemus

If you have the responsibility to take care of a nephew or niece, grandchild, your own child, or any other child in this world, you have grown accustomed to hearing the question “why?” These beautiful children enter this world with a clean slate with no knowledge of right or wrong, good or evil, foolishness or wisdom. As a result, they look to their parents and other authority figures in their lives to teach them these things and help them navigate this crazy world we live in. So, it’s no surprise that when they don’t have the knowledge or experience, or have been taught something different than the instructions you are providing they ask that all too familiar question, “Why?”

I would like to say that we have grown out of that, but we all know that isn’t the case. It seems like the older you get the more you realize you don’t know! It can be a challenge when someone brings along a new idea, teaching, action, or suggestion that we are ignorant of and as a result we are left asking “why?” Even more so when we see someone doing something with all liberty that contradicts what we have learned and practiced for years!

When I open Mark chapter two, it feels a bit like I have entered a day care center. In this short chapter the people, perplexed, confused, and upset by what the Lord and His disciples are doing respond repeatedly, like an inquisitive and confused child, “WHY?”

“**WHY** does this man speak like that?” Mark 2:7

“**WHY** does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” Mark 2:16

“**WHY** do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?”
Mark 2:18

“**WHY** are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?” Mark 2:24

These four “why’s” reveal a problem with the people Jesus had come to lead. They were incompatible. I am not saying they couldn’t become compatible but that they were incompatible in their current state. As a result of their preconceived ideas, teachings they had believed, leadership

they followed, culture they were immersed in, and Jewish traditions they adopted they were having a very hard time repenting and embracing the Lordship of Christ, the anointed one (Mark 1:1). They were as incompatible as putting new wine in an old wineskin, fasting during a wedding, and sewing a piece of unshrunk cloth on an old garment (Mark 2:21-22). Jesus and many of the souls He came to rescue were on two different pages.

You might be asking right now, WHY is Andrew sharing these things with us? Please don't walk away from this note of encouragement thinking that "Andrew said we shouldn't ask why" because that is not the point I am trying to make here. I love it when someone honestly, sincerely, and purely ask me why. Shoot, I am worse than my kids when it comes to asking why! I also do not want you to walk away thinking that you can't be confident and steadfast in the divine truths you have come to know.

The point I want to make is that we should learn from Mark chapter two, those that are asking why, and why they are asking why. Wow, that was a lot of "why's"! They were having a hard time understanding and following Jesus because they had adopted the doctrines, traditions, and/or beliefs that had originated with man rather than God. They were trusting in their hearts instead of God and as a result they struggled to unify with Jesus (Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 17:9). Their preconceived worldly ideas and the will of God were incompatible, which resulted in dissension between them and their Lord.

So, when you see someone doing something to glorify God that you are not too sure about, a teaching that goes against what you have been taught, or a scripture that doesn't harmonize with your concept of God and His will, make sure your "why" comes from a place of desiring to transform to God's will and not with an animosity that it doesn't conform to yours. Old wine and new wineskins are incompatible.