*Friday, August 26, 2011*

**Reality Check**

1 Corinthians 4:1-5 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. (2) Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (3) But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. (4) For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. (KJV)

So what does it really take to be used by our Lord? Well in the end or should I say the beginning, it will take a totally different mindset; no longer being concerned with what man thinks or the silly little judgments that they throw your way. Can you really say today that what others say or think has little to no impact on your walk with the Lord? Remember what John wrote about letting the Lord increase by getting self to decrease?

John 12:48-50 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. (49) For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. (50) And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak. (KJV)

How about today, are you willing to live by a new standard, knowing that by your words you will either be justified or condemned? Hey, what if you only spoke what you heard from our Father in heaven, wouldn’t that make you justified in His sight? Given the fact that our Lord said, the words that He spoke were Spirit and would bring life to the hearers, that should be good enough shouldn’t it?

John 17:6-8 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (7) Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. (8) For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. (KJV)

Wouldn’t it be a blessing if at the end of your time here on earth you too could look to heaven and be able to make the same statement that our Lord did concerning His walk and talk? Well that can happen people, but do know that the more you love the Lord, well, the less you will be received by man.

Deuteronomy 18:18-20 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. (19) And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him. (20) But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. (KJV)

The Lord chooses His people based on the inward motive of the heart, and the people pleasing ear tickling ones will be passed by. Many are truly called by God, but in the end only a few are chosen based on the fact that they are willing to please God no matter what the consequences are. Many have tweaked the doctrine, and tell people what they want to hear rather than what is needed, which is a death sentence to say the least.

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin. (KJV)

Telling people what you think they want to hear is the same as lying, and God does not use liars, neither does He allow them access to His eternal kingdom.

James 1:5-8 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. (6) But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (7) For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (8) A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (KJV)

So in conclusion this week, if you truly desire to be used by our Lord then it will take faith to please Him. Asking in faith means that you will step out faithfully and walk as well as talk whatever He would ask of you. Let a man examine himself; see if there is any area of your walk where you are still holding something or someone in higher esteem than our Lord and are seeking to please them more than God.

Romans 3:3-4 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? (4) God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (KJV)

The reality is that every man is a liar until they come into agreement with God. The more you realize that for yourself, the less you will be concerned with anything or anyone else. God bless, and I pray that your reality check doesn’t bounce today.