

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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Continuing on the subject of being a lawyer either for the prosecution or the defense, I can tell you right now that if I wanted to be a lawyer for the prosecution, I don't need the Old Testament, I can prosecute with the New Testament. I can beat you from pillar to post with the New Testament. You broke your leg? You don't have enough faith. Your finances are choking you to death? You don't have enough faith. Are you sad? You don't have enough faith. Are you struggling with being overweight? You don't have enough faith. Are you not healed even after praying a prayer of faith for your healing? You don't have enough faith. You are not sure you are saved? You don't have enough faith. Not having enough faith is a big deal. Faith, the meaning of the word faith, is to trust in, to lean on, as someone leans upon a staff. Are you not leaning on God entirely? Are you not putting all your weight on him? If you are not, you are forsaking God. Forsaking God, moving away from God, not relying on God, are grave sins.

So, it's not that the New Testament is going to offer you great relief from the Law. If anything, it is easier to condemn someone with the New Testament than it is with the Law. And that is because the New Testament is very vague compared to the Law. The Law is very straightforward, but with the New Testament is very easy to make up a sin and throw it on your face. The moment a reverse happens in your life I can say to you, you don't have enough faith. If pointing to sin in people's lives were my aim, I have no want of material. There is no end of pointing to sin. But if all men are sinners, and they are, that means I also am a sinner. Why then should I point at the mote in your eye before I remove the beam out of my own eye? I should be pointing at the way of escape, instead of putting obstacles in the way. Does the fireman prevent people from escaping the burning building? Should I be like the Amalekites? Should I cut off from God the poor and the needy, and the hungry and the naked? Obviously, not. But reverses and sufferings in life don't necessarily mean lack of faith. Otherwise, one would have to conclude that the Apostles had no faith. How many times were they chased out of town? Or beaten up? Or thrown in jail? Accusing someone of lack of faith because of troubles is a made-up sin. The vagueness of the New Testament regarding what is sin and what is not sin allows me to make something up and accuse you with it. God never said we will have no troubles. He did say that he will see us through those troubles. Regarding lack of faith, or lack of belief and assurance, one can pray for faith, all the time knowing that if lack of faith is a sin,

that sin is also covered. Under his mantle you will prosper in faith, your faith will increase and he likes that. Someone said to Jesus, I believe Lord, help thou my unbelief.

It is important to see that our faith, no matter how strong or big it is, will never be as big even as a mustard seed, which is one of the smallest of seeds. Jesus said that if your faith were as big as a mustard seed, you would be able to tell a mountain “Be thou removed and thrown into the sea,” and it would happen. Based on that, when was the last time you saw anybody throwing a mountain into the sea? The fact is, that our faith is sustained by God himself, it is nurtured by him, it is built up by him and he does so, often, through troubles, mysterious as that is.

Some Christians have the belief that Christ came in a vacuum. That he came out of nowhere when God the Father was about to annihilate us and he interposed himself between God and us and said please don't kill them I'll be the lamb of sacrifice for their sins. Well, that's not the way it happened. He is our lamb of sacrifice all right, but Jesus came to satisfy the will of the Father. It was the will of the Father to save us. Jesus carried out the will of the Father, not his own will. It is God the Father who provides the Lamb, **according to the Law** which he, by himself, established. Why is a society under law? Because under law there is order and one can appeal to the law for protection. It is the purpose of God to give us a sure foundation on which to rest our hopes. What possible reason would God have for giving us his Law? He is cruel and capricious and just wants to impose his will. That's a reason. He wants us to obey him and that's all there is to it. What he says goes and that's all we have to know. He has all the power and you have to do what he says or else. The else, of course, is hell; he can impose his will because he has the power. Might makes right. That's one possibility. He imposes this Law to show how powerful he is. Or, he makes money every time we obey. He is doing it for the money. Or, his glory gets a little brighter when we obey. He is doing it for vanity. Another possibility is that he gives us his Law because he loves us. Is it possible that in a moment of great introspection we might consider that God actually loves us and that's why he gives us the Law? But I don't really want to think about all the good reasons why God gives us his Law. I want to look at all the nefarious reasons. That's my nature. I'm paranoid and extremely distrustful. But I have looked and looked and I can't figure it out. The nefarious reasons don't make sense. Does he make any money if I don't eat pig? Do I add a couple of lumen to the brightness of his glory if I don't remove my neighbour's landmark? No, and no. He owns everything, he has created everything. As far as the brightness of his glory nothing can be added. What does he need? Nothing, least of all us, disobedient and willful, foolish children. The reason, the only reason, why he gives us his Law is because he loves us. His Law is designed to

give strength to the weak, and subtlety to the simple. It is also the place, the only place where grace is found, in the form of our Lamb, Jesus.