



Blackfoot Church of Christ

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Compliments Given By Christ

By Jim Mickells

Have you ever received a compliment from your fellow-man? I am sure you have. It could have been because of a kind deed you rendered, just being a friend, or it could be a flattering compliment with an ulterior motive. In the New Testament we find Jesus complimenting people for the good which He saw in them. He never had an ulterior motive when issuing a compliment.

Nathanael

“Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!” (John 1:47) The word “deceit” (King James Version – “guile”) is defined as “properly, bait; a lure, snare; hence, craft, deceit, guile” (J.H. Thayer, A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament. 155). He was a man of honesty and integrity. He did not say one thing and mean something else. His life was not one of self-deception nor of trying to deceive others. Barnes says:

“No deceit, no fraud, no hypocrisy. He is really what he professes to be - a Jew, a descendant of the patriarch Jacob, fearing and serving God. He makes no profession which he does not live up to” (Albert Barnes, Notes on the New Testament).

Jacob or Israel had been man of deception (Genesis 27:35) but not Nathanael.

John the Baptizer

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he” (Matthew 11:11). John was a man who was willing to give his life to prepare the way for the coming of the Son of God (John 1:23). He never

tried to exalt himself, understanding his God-given role in this work. He openly confessed he was not the Christ, not Elijah, nor was he the Prophet the Israelites had been looking for (John 1:19-21). He was not worthy he said to loose the Lord's sandal strap (John 1:27). His unusual food, dress, and where he dwelled while preaching was a testimony to his willingness to sacrifice for the Lord whom he loved (Matthew 3:1-6). Just because John was not a citizen in the kingdom of God did not diminish his greatness in the eyes of the Lord.

The Centurion

"When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!'" (Matthew 8:10) There are several interesting facts revealed about this Centurion: (1) his great love and compassion for a servant (Matthew 8:5-6), (2) his humility in recognizing the Lord's greatness and how unworthy he was for Him to enter his house (Matthew 8:8), (3) his kindness and generosity toward the Jews (Luke 7:4-5), and (4) his faith in the Lord once he had heard about Him, knowing He could heal this man (Luke 7:3). Not only did he have faith in Lord's ability to heal, but he knew Jesus only had to speak and the disease would obey His voice. He did not need to be in the presence of the sick servant (Mt 8:8-10).

Widow

"So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood" (Mark 12:43-44).

Here is a poor widow who gave everything she had to the Lord. She loved God more than she loved what little money she did have. She not only was willing to sacrifice but also to put her faith and trust in the Lord that He would provide what was needed to sustain her life. All I can say is, Wow!

Mary

"But Jesus said: "Let her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always" (Mark 14:6-7).

This woman was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus (John 12:1-8). The oil she used to anoint the head and feet of Jesus was very costly (Mark 14:3), which would indicate her willingness to sacrifice for her Lord. She anointed His

feet with this spikenard and wiped them her hair, showing her great humility. Even though what she did was a good work for the Messiah, some were very critical of her (Mark 14:5; John 12:4-6). Yet Jesus said, "Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her" (Mark 14:9).

Each of the things which Jesus commended these men and women for are characteristics the Christian must possess. There is honesty, uprightness, a willingness to sacrifice, faith, trust, humility, and steadfastness. Would He see and compliment these traits in us? May it always be our aim to please our Lord, so He could compliment us (2 Corinthians 5:9)

Resting in Our Labors

By Ross Ward

Having trouble sleeping? The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote the following: Ecc 5:12, "The sleep of a laboring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep." The writer seems to recognize the worry and concern that comes with the desire to gain and maintain wealth. He makes the point that the laboring man can sleep without much worry or concern at night. This man has little to worry over and likely engages in strenuous labor, thus he sleeps well whether he is hungry or not. Sometimes we can be so tired we don't want to eat. If this be the case, one is also too tired to worry. There is nothing like a hard day's work to allow one to have a good night's sleep. In contrast, the rich man has much wealth. He also has great responsibility and worry to go along with it. It can be very difficult to sleep when you lay in bed worrying about all the work that has yet to be done or the risk associated with something you have taken on. Though either man may worry; worry would typically follow the one with much to gain or lose. Jesus taught us that no man should worry, rich or poor. We are to put our trust in God, Mt 6:25-34. Resting in our labors may seem to be a paradox, but there is great truth in this statement. The laborer who strenuously works and does not worry can sleep well; those with much, are tempted to worry and will have much difficulty in sleeping. Worry has surely ruined with many nights sleep.

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Angie Woodside is working to get approved for treating her arthritis.
- Richard Empey's sister had successful surgery this week to install a pacemaker
- Richard's friend Jim Scott surgery for an aneurism on his heart has been postponed. This is a very serious condition and prayers are requested.
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Evie Trokey, the young girl diagnosed with brain cancer is undergoing Chemo at a Minnesota Hospital. (Trevor Trokey preaches at the church in Rapid City)
- Bible class at Chad & Kass' 6:00 tonight

For prayer requests, call or text

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

Assignments

<u>Today</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – Chad Mitchell Lord's Table – Tom Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – Tom Mitchell Invitation – Ross Ward
<u>Next Sunday</u> Bible Study – Ross Ward Song Leader – David Porter Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell Sermon – Ross Ward	<u>Next Wednesday</u> Bible Study – Chad Mitchell Song Leader – David Porter Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221



Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM

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