

Scripture Reference: John 14:8-15

Date: February 9, 2014

Title: "The Works of Jesus"

Focus: God is revealed in His followers (What the Church is Series 3 of 10)

1. Two apples plus two apples, equals four apples - Correct? Therefore, two cars plus two cars, equals four cars?

However, two apples plus two cars, does not equal four apples or four cars - agreed?

This is logic. Its process is unaffected by emotion or bias. Whether a person likes it or not, the outcome cannot be changed. It can be rejected. But, it cannot be changed while remaining intellectually honest.

So it was one day that Jesus employed a little logic with His disciples about proving God exists. I wonder if they received His lesson any better than we?

v. 8; Philip's Request was, "*show us the Father.*"

Sometimes this question comes in the form of, "Prove to me God is real." Other times it is, "If God is real, why does such and such happen?"

Whatever the wording, people are seeking proof of God's existence. Often the proof they are seeking is of their own choosing.

They think, "Since I don't believe God would allow evil, since evil happens, I don't believe God exists."

All of us seek proof of God's reality based on some parameter we value, knowledge, emotion, eye sight, hard evidence, incontrovertible proof, etc.

v. 9; Jesus' response was, "*he who has seen me has seen the Father.*"

Jesus' response to Philip was, "I've already provided proof to the reality of the Father."

vv. 10-11; He asserted that His *character, words, actions*, and the *reactions* all prove God is in Him.

v. 9; Jesus asks Philip if he did not know Jesus. Did he not personally witness in Jesus, God's presence?

v. 10; He asks Philip if what he has heard Jesus say did not evidence God's presence.

v. 11; Jesus asks Philip to trust his own eyes and what he himself had witnessed while living with Jesus.

1 John 1:1-3; “*What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us—what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.*”

Therefore, in Jesus, God is seen.

2 + 2 = 4, God has been seen and must be real because of who Jesus is, what He says and does, and the results of all three.

NOTE: The reality of God is seen in the character, words, actions, and results of Jesus.

v. 12; Jesus asserts His followers will be like Him. They will “*do the works [He] did.*”

The reality of God will be proved by His disciples.

The character His disciples attest to the nature of God.

The words of His disciples attest to the words of God.

The actions by His disciples attest to the actions of God.

The results of the character demonstrated, words spoken, and actions undertaken attest to the reality of God.

This is a point His disciples struggle with. Jesus can show God, but we can't. But, this is not what Jesus said.

We have trouble believing that God can be proved by who we are.

Acts 14:8-12; "At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was listening to Paul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, 'Stand upright on your feet.' And he leaped up and began to walk. When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, 'The gods have become like men and have come down to us.' And they began calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker."

vv. 13-14; If Jesus' disciples will ask "*anything in [His] name*" - He will do it.

Disciples do what they think *they* are capable of, instead of what they believe *He* is capable of.

Whatever action being considered, is not contingent upon their ability to accomplish it.

Instead, all they were to do is ask, and *He* will accomplish it.

What Jesus did, He did for the glory of the Father and for no other reason.

What a follower of Christ asks, in Jesus name, for the glory of God, Jesus promises He will do.

Do not ask because of who you are or for your glory and expect God to respond.

To ask in the name of Jesus is to ask based on the person of Christ, who He is, what He has done, and what He means to you.

To ask “*that the Father may be glorified in the Son,*” is to think beyond yourself, your comfort, wholly for the advancement of God’s person and Kingdom.

1. Logic shows that Jesus proved God’s reality and His disciples are to do what He did.
2. The life of a disciple of Jesus is impossible apart from God (John 15:5).
3. We will not cooperate with His purposes unless we accept as true what He says over what we do.