

I was one of the hundreds that were following the Great Teacher, and stayed with Him throughout His entire ministry. I listened carefully to learn all that I could about the New Kingdom. But I was also intrigued by the other followers, and had a habit of watching them closely. Many were genuinely trying to understand, like me. But in addition I saw those who were trying to trap Him, and others that nodded sagely at His words though they didn't believe Him at all.

One man was of particular interest to me. He followed on the periphery, never pushing in to touch or directly interact with the Teacher. I watched His reactions to the stories of Jesus, and it was clear that he was emotionally invested in each of them.

When Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son, I looked around and found the man to be crying. I was concerned and went over and talked to him. I learned that he is "after" God's heart, not exactly in the sense of King David¹, but that he saw the pursuit of God's heart to be his main desire.

He described his feelings in this way:

"As I listened to this story, I just let the tears run down my face. And I thought to myself, 'I am not ashamed of these tears. Indeed, I embrace them, for it shows that there is some good in my heart.'"

Then he told me that he would rather have God say, "Here is a man after My own heart," than, "He is a good and faithful servant." He would love both, but he knows that his weakness in doing Good did not always reflect his love for what is Good.

I agreed with the man that it would be better to follow God in our heart than to be servant at some distance from Him. I admired this man, and I knew that God would be very proud of him. What else does He desire from us except that we want to be like Him? That is indeed True Worship.

1. 1 Samuel 13:14, Jeremiah 3:15, and Acts 13:22