

The storyteller, as usual, had a crowd around him as he told them one of the parables from his vast collection. He was attempting to show that God was not selfish in His quest for our worship, but that He is simply leading us to the Greatest Good. And so, he told the story:

There was a man who was a Great Teacher, who called on others to follow Him in every aspect of life. He gathered quite a number of disciples, and He began to instruct them in the deeper and deeper issues of the spirit, promising great reward and streets of gold. When it became clear that He was presenting Himself as a messenger of the divine Light¹, some of his followers objected to his teaching.

“You are making yourself equal to God,” one claimed, angrily². “You have no right to do that.” Another accused Him of seeking adoration to boost His own ego, thirsting for attention for its own sake. “You seek to serve only yourself,” he said³.

The Teacher tried to make them understand that He was indeed the way to God⁴, and that those who followed Him would find tremendous treasure. He described this path as the way to Truth and Life⁵, and ultimately all Goodness.

Some who objected most strenuously fell away and refused to continue as His disciples. They could not understand or accept the intimacy that he expected of them⁶ and that He claimed with the one He called His Heavenly Father⁷. He equated God as a divine “Person” to Goodness – not a personality that expressed selfishness, but a powerful existence that is one with the Good. Instead of understanding, though, they demanded that He produce this “Father” of which He spoke⁸.

Those who stayed realized that He was indeed the way to man’s salvation from condemnation, not because of how He defined the “way”, but because there is a higher level of salvation found in loving the Good with all of our heart⁹. And as they traveled with Him, they eventually realized that their view of Him had undergone a great transition: He had actually turned to Gold before their eyes!

The storyteller paused for a moment, and then said, “God is pointing the way to the Supreme Good. His greatest command is to love Him with all of our being, but next to that is the command to love others, too. This is the foundation of Good, upon which all else is built¹⁰.

The man in the story is the map that leads us there; we really know Him as the Christ. He is the offspring of God’s Unfailing Love¹¹. He is a guide that is not seeking mere attention and authority over us, but one who truly wants to lead us safely. And if we can perceive the true goal of His Kingdom, we will pursue the Good without being commanded to do so. In so doing, we become a part of that rich and luxurious eternal fabric that binds our souls together with His Great Spirit.

1. John 8:12
2. John 5:18
3. but see Matthew 20:28
4. John 14:6
5. not perhaps the exact meaning...
6. John 6:66; many turned away after Christ told them that they must drink His blood...

7. Matthew 10:32-33, and other instances
8. see John 8:12-18 and John 14:6-8, and note how in both instances (adversaries and disciples)
Jesus is asked to show this Father that He speaks of
9. Mark 12:33
10. Matthew 22:40
11. Exodus 15:13

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