

In the Dust of the Rabbi
Part #8 - "Losing My Religion!"

Sunday August 5, 2007

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"Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished. Anyone who breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ***For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.*** (Matthew 5:17-20)

"Religion can be the enemy of God. It's often what happens when God, like Elvis, has left the building. A list of instructions where there was once conviction; dogma where once people just did it; a congregation led by a man where once they were led by the Holy Spirit." (Bono / U2)

The MEASURE of a Religious Person ...

1. They are BIG on words and SMALL on **works**. (Matt. 23:1-4)
2. They are BIG on **visibility** and SMALL on humility. (Matt. 23:5-7, 11-12)
3. They are BIG on performance and SMALL on **acceptance**. (Matt. 23:13-14)
 - ✓ "Woe" means 'wrath and sorrow.'
 - ✓ 'Hypocrite' – 'one who answers / acts'

4. They are BIG on building their own **club** and SMALL on building the Kingdom

Q – What is God's favorite denomination?

5. They are BIG on **escape** routes and SMALL on **promise**-keeping
J Finger crossing vs. promise keeping
6. They are BIG on the SMALL things and SMALL on the BIG things. (Matthew 23:23-24)
7. They are BIG on **externals** and SMALL on internals. (Matt. 23:25-28)

How to LOSE our Religious Ways ...

- A. Let your **worlds** collide – personal, private and public.
- B. Adopt a 'faith in culture' approach to life, not a cultural faith.
- C. Rediscover grace as your only hope and tear up the score card of **karma**.
- D. Elevate our interior world and suspend judgment over everything exterior.
- E. Work towards clarifying the difference between the **core** and the circumference.
- F. Broaden the circle of God's infinite love and see yourself, your friends and those who disagree with you - within it.
- G. Apply God's commands to your postal code **first** before mailing them to anyone else.
- H. Refuse to think 'superior thoughts' regarding **denominational** affiliation