

When All Men Shall Speak Well of You!
Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 6:26, “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets”

Jesus was referring to the men who would speak to please the people instead of preaching the true message of God. No one can please all men and God. If a person preaches to please the people, he will not please God. On the other hand if he preaches to please God, he certainly will not please all of the people. Some of them will accept the word of God, but not all of the people will. They didn’t when Jesus, the Son of God, preached and won’t for his followers either.

Some are torn between serving God and trying to keep their position as pastor. While it is a fearful thing to lose a position and income, it is much more fearful to face God as one who chose to please men instead of the Lord. There are those who do whatever it takes to gather a large following and to

keep them happy. That is why some won’t preach about hell and living above sin. They may have many to pat them on the back and to praise them, but when we don’t declare all the counsel of God we will give account to the Lord.

All the people will not speak well of anyone. What the Lord says is that the majority will praise the one who pleases them and makes them feel good. Jesus said in **John 13:17,** “If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.” This is how a man can feel good about himself, by doing what the Lord says that we should do. If a man tells us that we are good and going to heaven while we are sinning, we may feel alright for now, but not when we stand before God.

For a preacher, it is encouraging when people tell you that you are doing well. As with everything else, it can become a dangerous thing. Praise feels good to any of us, and some become addicted to it and feels low, or bad, when it stops. A person has to be strong enough to not be doing things to get praise from people. The Christian, preacher or not, is to do things to serve and please the Lord, not man.

When a person begins to preach to please the people he is drifting away from God. **Galatians 1:10,** “For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” God’s message has not, nor will it ever, please all people on this earth. If “All” people speak well of you, then you had better take a look at your life and ministry. You are not preaching against sin and giving out the message of God if everyone is happy and patting you on the back. They didn’t like the message of Jesus, Paul, Peter, or anyone else who has preached the true message of God.

It would be wonderful if everyone was rejoicing, praising God, and living by his word. In heaven this will be, but sadly it is not happening here on earth. The duty of the minister is to present the gospel message to the people. He is not to be an entertainer, social director, or anything but a minister of God, preaching the word of God. The ones who will do that and seek to please God are going to be blessed. The ones who seek the praise of men will be ashamed when they stand before God.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

DAVID'S fighting courage

KING SAUL, FEARING THAT DAVID WILL TAKE THE KINGDOM FROM HIM, HAS ENTICED DAVID WITH A PROMISE OF MARRIAGE TO HIS ELDER DAUGHTER MERAB, TO GO OUT AND FIGHT THE PHILISTINES, HOPING DAVID WILL BE KILLED IN THE BATTLE...

BEHOLD, MY LORD, DAVID AND HIS WARRIORS HAVE FARED WELL AGAINST OUR ENEMIES!

BUT NOW DAVID AND HIS MEN RETURN VICTORIOUS....

YEA, ABNER! MY EYES CAN SEE THAT — AND MY EARS CAN HEAR THE CHEERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR DAVID!

WHAT NOW WILT THOU DO, MY LORD — FOR DAVID HAS RETURNED WITH VICTORY, BUT THOU HAST ALREADY GIVEN MERAB IN MARRIAGE UNTO ADRIEL THE MEHOLATHITE!

I KNOW NOT!

AH! IT IS SO, IS IT NOT?!

MY LORD, LET NOT THY HEART BE TROUBLED OVER THIS MATTER — FOR IF, INDEED, DAVID CAN NOT HAVE MERAB TO WIFE — BEHOLD, THY YOUNGER DAUGHTER, MICHAL, IS SICK WITH LOVE FOR DAVID!

NOW THEN, MICHAL SHALL BE A SNARE FOR DAVID — AND HE SHALL YET DIE AND THUS WILL MY KINGDOM BE SAVED FOR MINE OWN HOUSE!

SEND FOR DAVID — WE SHALL SETTLE THIS MATTER ONCE AND FOR ALL!

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