

“FAR ABOVE ALL”

Bryan Matthew Dockens, 2021

Forty days after Jesus was raised,
And “many infallible proofs,”
Eleven apostles were amazed
To be witnesses of these truths.

The Lord commissioned them to preach,
And led them out to Bethany.
He pronounced blessings on them each,
Then parted from their company.

Christ Jesus lifted up His hands,
And was received in a cloud.
Heaven removed Him from these lands.
The eleven were left wowed.

Men appeared in white apparel,
Asking them, “Why do you gaze?”
They had this message to herald:
He’ll return one of these Days.

In Heaven, Jesus was seated.
His sacrifice is forever good.
Other offerings were never completed.
Aaronic priests always stood.

He is enthroned at God’s right hand.
“More excellent” is His name.
Majesty is His to command.
“Far above all” is His fame.

“He led captivity captive,”
None to make condemnation.
In intercession He’s active;
He gives uttermost salvation.

(Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11; Romans 8:34;
Ephesians 4:8; Hebrews 1:3-4; 7:25; 10:11-12)

DEFENDING JESUS PETER’S WAY

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Christ warned His apostles, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night” (Mark 14:27), but Peter was quick to respond, “Even if all are made to stumble, yet I will not be!” (29). Upon Peter’s objection, Jesus let him know his wayward turn would be worse than the rest: “You will deny Me three times” (30). “But he spoke more vehemently, ‘If I have to die with You, I will not deny You!’” (31).

Determined to prove his dedication and valor, Peter steeled his resolve to die fighting for his Lord. When Judas’s detachment of troops entered the garden “and laid hands on Jesus and took Him” (Matthew 26:47), he sprang into action. “Suddenly” (51), “Simon Peter, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus” (John 18:10). He was no coward, but a warrior, ready to do battle for Christ and to go out in a blaze of glory.

That was not the plan, though. It never was. “Jesus answered and said, ‘Permit even this.’ And He touched his ear and healed him” (Luke 22:51). It was not in Him to kill, but to heal. Not only that, but He scolded Peter. “Put your sword in its place, for all for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?” (Matthew 26:52-53). If Jesus needed protecting, He had better guards than Peter standing by.

His readiness to kill for Christ being sidelined, Peter’s zeal changed course. If he could not defend Him valiantly, he would deny Him vociferously. At the high priest’s house, observing phase one of the prosecution, he denied Jesus three times, with each denial escalating in intensity. First, he simply said, “I do not know what you are saying” (Matthew 26:70). Second, “he denied with an oath, ‘I do not know the Man!’” (72). Third, “he began to curse and swear, saying, ‘I do not know the Man!’” (74).

Too many believers are involved in a Malchus’s Ear Scenario. They have grand designs on how to serve Jesus and they are eager to do so, yet when the word of the Lord reveals those plans contradict His own, they turn their zeal in an even less helpful and more dangerous direction. It must not be so. Thankfully, Peter “wept bitterly” when he realized his transgression (Matthew 26:75) and Christ later gave him opportunity to be restored (John 21:15-19). May others do likewise.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"The best apology is changed
behavior."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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NO JOKE

Robert Perkins

There's an old joke about a farmer who was going broke farming, so he quit and started selling hammers. He would buy hammers for \$3 a piece and sell them for \$2 each. He was happy and doing a pretty good business, but a friend advised him that for every hammer he sold, he was losing \$1. His reply? "It's more profitable than farming."

That joke is similar to what people sometimes do with their lives. Activities like drunkenness, sexual immorality, unfaithfulness to a spouse, etc. can cause folks to view their lives as being spiritually bankrupt. So they decide to go to church or pray or read the Bible every once in a while without actually correcting the behaviors that got them into such a big mess to begin with.

Going to church, praying, and reading the Bible are good things to do, but until we take some corrective action in our lives and commit ourselves fully to Jesus Christ and His teachings, we are still "going broke" – like buying hammers for \$3 and selling them for \$2.

Don't make a joke out of your life.

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