

“SIMON SAYS” COMPARED TO “GOD SAYS”

Mt.7:21-29; Lk.6:46

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In this lesson a principle of authority is to be emphasized and compared; that is, the principle of authority recognize and respected in the game children play known as “Simon Says” compared to that in spiritual matters where it is “God Says” instead of Simon.
2. Perhaps you can remember in the days of your youth playing a game called “Simon Says.” If so, you will perhaps remember the following things about the game. That while playing the game:
 - a. Simon had total authority, with all actions to be taken, all commands given, must be preceded by the words, “Simon says”.
 - b. Everyone playing the game had to and did obey exactly what Simon commanded if they wanted to win the game.
 - c. If Simon gave the command to jump, one would have to do exactly that –nothing more, nothing less.
 - (1) If Simon said o jump and one of the players jumped **and** clapped his hands, he was automatically disqualified; he lost the game.
 - (2) And deviation form what Simon said do; such as, doing more than he said do; doing less than he said do; or substituting for what he said do, eliminated that player from the game.
 - (3) All who played the game understood that; respected it; obey it!
 - d. Moreover, Simon always had to authorize the action before any action could take place, and his command for the action had to be preceded by the words “Simon says”; such as “Simon says, jump”; or “Simon says, jump and clap your hands once”; or “Simon says, clap your hands three times then jump once,” etc.
3. In this game, all recognized and respected the fact that Simon, having total authority, any action taken had first to be authorized by Simon, with no one allowed to act without his authority, or to change or rebel against authority in any way.

II. DISCUSSION

A. THE PRINCIPLE ILLUSTRATED AND EMPHASIZED IN SPIRITUAL MATTERS WHERE IT IS GOD WHO SAYS.

1. In this study of “Simon Says” compared to “God Says” we wish to emphasize the principle that in spiritual matters God, the Father, through Jesus Christ, has total, complete authority, which he exercised by means of his chosen Apostles, Deut.18:18,19; Jno.12:48-50; Mt.28:18-20; Eph.1:19-23; Jno.17:8,18,20,21; Mt.16:18,19; 18:18.
2. Though we are not playing a game in our service to the Lord as in the game of “Simon Says”, the principle of authority to be recognized, respected and obeyed without fail in order to please the Lord is the same: We must believe what he says and obey it exactly as he authorizes the action to be taken, and that without addition, subtraction, or substitution, Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46; Heb.5:8,9; Col.3:17; 1Cor.4:6; 1Pet.4:1; Rev.22:18,19.
3. Unfortunately and sadly, what is so disturbing is the fact that in playing the game of “Simon Says” children have more respect for the authority of Simon and what he says do than adults do for the authority of God and what God says in his written word where he tells us what to do and what not to do.

B. NOTICE THE FOLLOWING NOTORIOUS EXAMPLES WHERE OUT OF CHARGE IS VINDICATED.

1. God says: “Sing”, Eph.5:19 Col.3:16.
 - a. What do men do in disregarding the authority of the Lord in the action authorized?
 - (1) Some sing **and** play on a mechanical instrument of music.
 - (2) Sometimes they only play.
 - (3) Sometimes they do neither (Quakers).
 - b. What would children do if playing the game of “Simon Says” if Simon said “sing”?
 - (1) They would sing.
 - (2) They wouldn’t dare add anything to his command to sing!
2. God says: Partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine on the first day of the week to commemorate the Lord’s death till he comes again, Lk.22:16-20; 1Cor.11:23-26; Ac.20:7.
 - a. What do men do in violation of what God says do in this matter which shows their unbelief, disrespect for and disobedience of what God says?
 - (1) Some eat the Lord’s Supper on Thursday night instead of the first day of the week.

- (2) Some eat it quarterly instead of every 1st day of the week.
 - (3) Some eat it semi-annually or annually.
 - (4) Some don't eat it at all.
 - (5) Some substitute for the bread and the fruit of the vine.
- b. What would children do if playing the game of "Simon Says" if Simon said: "eat bread and drink fruit of the vine"?
3. God says: Teach and baptize penitent, confessing believers for the remission of sins," Mt.28:18,19; Mk.16:15,16;Ac.2:36-38,41; Ac.8:5,12; 8:35-38; 9:5,6; 22:16.
- a. How do men show their unbelief and lack of respect for God's authority regarding this command or authorized action?
- (1) Some baptize babies; that is, they practice infant baptism. They baptize those who cannot believe, or repent, and who have no sins to be remitted.
 - (2) They baptize because of remission of sins instead of for or unto remission of sins; they baptize because the person has already been saved according to their theology.
 - (3) They deny the necessity of baptism for remission of sins; They say baptism had nothing to do with the remission of sins; that it is because of!
- b. What would children do to show their respect for Simon's authority if playing the game of "Simon Says" and if Simon gave such a command?
4. Gods says: To be baptized, it must be in water, and that the believer must be buried with Christ in baptism in order to rise to walk in newness of life, Ac.8:35-38; 10:44-48;Rom.6:3-5;Col.2:12; Mt.3:16.
- a. How do men declare their unbelief and the lack of respect for and their rejection of God's authority with reference to what God says about this?
- (1) Some substitute sprinkling or pouring for baptism instead of a burial or an immersion in water.
 - (2) Some immerse the person in water, but not a burial with Christ in order to walk in newness of life; they do it because that person is already walking in newness of life, having been saved before baptism according to their theology.
- b. If Simon had so commanded children when playing the game of "Simon Says", they wouldn't have hesitated or substituted for what Simon authorized.

- c. See the force and the importance of the principle when applied in playing a mere game of “Simon Says” and as to how men regard its importance and force in the serious business of obeying God in the salvation of souls and going to heaven!
- 5. God says: “Speak where the Bible speaks, keep silent where the Bible is silent,” 1Pet.4:11; 1Cor.4:6; Rev.22:18,19 (Cf. Deut.4:2); mt.15:9; Col.2:20-22; 2Jno.9.
 - a. Men ignore this and add human creeds, disciplines containing the doctrines and commandments of men instead of a “thus saith the Lord.”
 - b. In doing so, they are adding to and condemning themselves in the process!

III. CONCLUSION

1. When Israel of the O.T. ignored what God said and disobeyed God, they suffered the penalty for their sinful action, Heb.2:1,2. (Example after example proved it so!)
2. Those things were written “for our learning” (Rom.15:4), and “for our admonition (to put us in mind)” (1Cor.10:1-11).
3. In spite of all this, religious division is the order of our day the world over, because men have not and do not recognize nor respect what God says in his written word.
4. We need adults today who respect and obey what God says, as children who play the game of “Simon Says” respect and obey what Simon says. For in the spiritual realm, which is not a game of fun and frolic, but involves our souls and our home in heaven, God has total, complete authority, as Simon has in the game of “Simon Says”, which is a game of fun and frolic, and only involves no more serious consequences than being eliminated from the game.
5. Which do you think is more important? What “Simon Says” or what “God Says”?
6. Jesus prayed that all believer be one, Jno.17:20,21; the Apostles of Christ reached the necessity of it, 1Cor.1:10-13.
7. Can you cite Bible proof for what you believe and practice? Can you give book, chapter and verse for it? Think of the consequences if you can’t!