



← *Isn't this beautiful?*



This month's image was created digitally by our friend Rima Jabbour. Her calligraphy artwork is beautiful and we've enjoyed watching her already amazing talent be polished, both her hand and computer work. Job 32:30 summed up so much of what OddDuck is about I asked to share it with you.

This chapter from The Book of Job is when Job's friend, Elihu, can't stand it anymore. He's been trying to politely listen to Job and the other two friends' discussion. By verses 32:20, he's so frustrated he must speak up despite his youth. He wants to be respectful to his elders but darn it, they aren't getting it at all. And he tries to set them straight.

Here at OddDuck ministries we have read and studied about the pseudo Christian religions for a while now. It came to the point where the more we learned, the more we could not keep quiet. We had to open our lips and answer. We saw the need for education about false religions for our fellow believers. If we had a nickel for every time we heard (and still hear) "But they are such nice people" I'd be typing this on a much nicer and newer laptop. Folks weren't getting it and we knew God was calling us to teach the why of knowing, even at a basic level, the doctrines of the pseudo Christian religions.

It was in Persuasion and Debate, a class at Moody, that one of the important aspects of debating was knowing where our opponent stood on the debated issue. It was my debate partner and my job, then, to not only learn all we could about our position but every possible angle the other side will try and use to win their position. The lesson was hammered home the morning Joe and I sat across from two Mormon missionaries a few months later. Even a small amount of knowledge about their beliefs was invaluable in counteracting their claims to being "just like us".

In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells the disciples in Jerusalem the gospel message should go to the ends of the earth. The scripture has a feeling of "as you go" not just "when you get there". Notice, it starts in Judea where Jerusalem is located. At home. Now, I'm not saying it isn't ok to be called "to the ends of the earth" for ministry. Please keep in mind, though, that many, many false religions are already there. Already there and deceiving the population you want to reach making your job much more difficult.

We don't expect everyone to become full-time missionaries to Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses or any pseudo Christian religion. But as Christians, it should break our hearts there are those out there who are being deceived by the enemy. An enemy who will disguise himself as an angel of light and use scripture besides (2 Corinthians 11:12-15, Matthew 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-12). We should be so full of the good news of John 3:16 we are not able to keep quiet ( Luke 19:37-40; Romans 1:16).

One last thing. Joe and I have been criticized for bringing the people who knock on our door into our home citing 2 John 1:7 for a proof text. Let's look at 2 John. The woman (or church) was giving hospitality (lodging and monetary gifts) to whichever traveling preacher came along. Sometimes she didn't always get it right in her enthusiasm. John gave her a litmus test to use as she discerns who she should support. He taught her there is a difference between allowing someone to use her home as a base for "outreach" and sharing the message of salvation with those who need to hear it. Making people think is Joe and my only goal. We won't *ever* support a cause whose doctrine is counter to biblical orthodoxy even to the point of not agreeing to disagree with whomever we're talking to. To do so would imply there is validity to the opposing side thus supporting it. We simply see people lost in the pseudo Christian religions just as lost as any Muslim or atheist. Not only that- God brings them STRAIGHT TO OUR DOOR! We can at least plant seeds of the gospel in what time we have.

Which becomes less and less every day-

*Doing the best we can where we are,*

Susan and Joe Wolf