



Disc 15 ~ Episode 2 Pirated in Bangkok ~ An Audience of One



Video Summary

This is one of the shorter YouthByte episodes, but its message is nonetheless very powerful. We see Chad engaged in some crazy antics which illustrate some of man's attempts to please God and to get His applause. The first is trying to chase an image fashioned by man. Second is trying to sing a song with purely human effort, but that requires God since He wrote it. Chad's karaoke will leave your ears wanting a break. Finally, Chad tries to go fishing, but not the right way. In the end, all attempts to please God based on human effort are fruitless. Chad challenges all people on the stage called life to live in a way that pleases Jesus Christ. He is really the only one who matters.



Icebreaker

Flight Problems

A blonde was on a 747 jumbo jet flying from New York to Frankfurt Germany. All of a sudden there was a loud bang. The pilot came on the speaker and said, "I'm sorry, one engine has just shut off - don't worry, we can fly fine on the others, but I need to let you know we will be arriving in Frankfurt two hours late."

A few hours later, there was another bang on the other side of the airplane. Once again, the pilot came on said the same thing except he apologized that they would be arriving in Frankfurt four hours late.

After that, the third engine shut off and the pilot told the passengers that they will be arriving in Frankfurt 8 hours late.

At that point the blonde turned to her friend next to her and said, "you know, if another engine shuts off we'll be up here all night."



Primary Lesson

Remember Jesus is always watching and its Him we need to please

This lesson is really quite simple, yet profound. Millions of people on our planet try so hard to please God but often follow erroneous thoughts as to what God wants from them. Many traditional practices, even in the Christian world, teach people they have to follow rituals and say numerous chants or repetitive prayers to get God's attention.

Most of our human efforts are not biblical. We can never please God by following ritual and tradition that does not match up with Scripture. Chad shows that having a relationship with Jesus Christ and living according to His ways and His words is the only way to get the applause of heaven.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

- The Hindu religion allows people to pray to about 330 million gods but they believe each god is just a facet of one Supreme Being.
- The Old Testament forbids the making of any graven image to represent God using the following Scripture:
 - **Leviticus 26:1** *You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the Lord your God.*
- Some facts about Karaoke: karaoke is actually a Japanese term, which means "empty orchestra," where "kara" in Japan means "empty," while "oke," from the Japanese term "okesutora," which means "orchestra."
- The karaoke machine was designed originally to provide backing tracks for solo cabaret performers.
- Karaoke first originated in Japan during the 1970s. At a later stage, this music boom box was distributed to East Asia during the last part of the 1980s and then entered the United States during the early part of the 1990s.
- Australia has its own karaoke psychologist who is simply known as Doctor Tom.



Key Scriptures

(From NKJV, unless otherwise noted)

2 Corinth 5:9-10 ~ *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Galatians 1:10 ~ *For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.*

Matthew 15:8-9 ~ [God speaking] *These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.*

Matthew 6:7-8 ~ *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

Proverbs 29:25 ~ *Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety. (NLT)*



Complimentary Story

A True Angel Story

This is a true story and the author personally knows Franz Kleefeld to whom it happened.

The Bible says we all have angels watching over us but few people ever get to see their angels. One man, Franz Kleefeld, got to see an angel in a most unusual situation. Franz and his wife Esther were raised in Germany. When they were in their 20s, they decided to become missionaries to Ghana, West Africa. They were still young and inexperienced and they had very little financial support. They moved to Ghana and began to get their work off the ground, but they found they were in great need of a vehicle to provide transportation for their work.

The next time the couple was back in Germany doing itineration for their missions work, they shared their need for a vehicle. It was at that time that an old vehicle was donated to them. Unfortunately it was not in great shape and they did not have the finances to ship it to Ghana. After much prayer, the couple decided that the wife would fly back to Ghana but that Franz would ferry the vehicle across the Mediterranean to Algeria and then drive the vehicle through the Sahara desert down to Ghana in West Africa. To make the journey less dangerous, Franz decided to try and find a convoy of vehicles and travel together with them through the thousands of miles of barren desert.

Upon arriving in Algeria, Franz found a convoy and the convoy leaders agreed to let him drive together with them. There was only one problem and that was the condition of Franz's car. The engine would overheat and frequently give trouble causing the whole convoy to have to wait until he caught up. His car was also very slow due to its poor condition. Finally the convoy leaders told him that he was holding up their progress and that he would have to find a solution to the problem.

The following morning, Franz rose up very early. He decided to go out ahead of the convoy and expected that during the day the convoy would catch up to his slow moving vehicle. In this way he felt he would lift the burden of his slow progress from the convoy. Franz took off down the desert road but there were very few signposts and the wind often blew sand across the road. Not being familiar with the route, Franz took a wrong turn and ended up many miles off course. He finally came to a Bedouin settlement and asked the people there to show him on the map where he was. When they pointed out his position, he realized he was far off course and turned around to head back to where he had come from. As he was leaving the settlement, he saw a Bedouin by the side of the road with his hand outstretched in a hitchhiking mode. Franz picked the man up but he spoke no English or German. He simply pointed down the road towards where Franz was headed.

Franz traveled many miles with that Bedouin. After a while they came to a place where the road had disappeared because the Sahara sand had completely covered it. The Bedouin simply pointed with his hand the direction to go. Somehow the vehicle seemed to glide over the sand and they would find the road again. After some hours, they came over a large sand dune and down below was the convoy that Franz had left early that morning. Franz was overjoyed to find them again and raced his vehicle up to the convoy in the middle of the desert. He jumped out of the car and embraced his convoy friends. They said to Franz, "we're so happy to see you, how did you manage to find us?" "Oh", he said, "the Bedouin helped me." "What Bedouin?" they asked. Franz turned around and looked into his car. There was nobody there. The convoy people told him that when he had driven up to them, they had seen nobody in his car with him. Franz then knew that the Bedouin had been an angel sent by God to help him to find his way.



Discussion Questions

1. Christians often look down on people who worship idols and strange looking gods. Which idols do we in the West often worship? (Hint: movie stars, sports heroes, famous musicians, etc.) Discuss how our idols compare to their idols in view of a Holy God.
2. Jesus was speaking to the Jewish religious people when he talked about people teaching as doctrines the commandments of men (Matthew 15:8-9). Discuss some of the commandments that churches sometimes create that are not in the Bible but are often taught like they are.
3. Many people often do things they know are wrong, but because they feel pressure around them and fear rejection, they just do it. Talk about times when the fear of man changes your behavior.
4. Pray for one another that you will not have the fear of man but that you will put God first and that you will have courage to do the right thing in front of your friends.

