THE CART IN FRONT OF THE HORSE

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"THE CART IN FRONT OF THE HORSE"IS A TYPICAL EXAMPLE OF HOW WE CAN CHANGE THE ORDER OF THINGS,AND FAIL TO GET THE DESIRED RESULTS. THIS EXPRESSION IS COMMONLY USED TO DESCRIBE THE CONFUSED SITUATION THAT RESULTS,WHEN MEN MAKE THE MISTAKE OF REVERSING OR CHANGING THE PROPER ORDER OF HAPPENINGS OR EVENTS.

IT APPEARS THAT SOME OF OUR BRETHREN IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST,NOW HAVE OLD DOBBIN SQUAREKY BEHIND THE CART,AND ARE PUTTING OUT A LOT OF EFFORT TO MAKE THE CART GO,BUT WHERE ARE THEY GOING?

THE NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES GIVES US THE ACCOUNT OF CERTAIN EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE,DUREING THE LIFE OF OUR LORD,AND AS WE SEE THOSE EVENTS UNFOLD IN THEIR PROPER ORDER, WE SEE THE WILL OD GOD ACCOMPLISHED BY HIS SON,AND WE SEE CHRIST PERFORMING ALL OF HIS DUTY, TO THE COMPLETE SATISFACTION OF THE FATHER IN HEAVEN.

NOW WE MAY KNOW ASSUREDLY THAT WHEN CHRIST GIVES US AN EXAMPLE TO FOLLOW,AND WE FOLLOW THAT EXAMPLE THAT THE FATHER WILL BE PLEASED,BUT IF WE CHANGE THAT EXAMPLE TO PLEASE OURSELVES, THAT WE MAY NOT PLEASE GOD.

LET US TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER; NOW IN MATTH 26:26,27; MARK 14:22,23; LUKE 22:19,20;AND 1 COR.11:23-25;WE FIND THAT THE DISCIPLES PARTOOK OF THE BREAD BEFORE THEY PARTOOK OF THE CUP,SO IF WE FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET FOR US,AND DO NOT CHANGE THE ORDER OF THE EVENTS,AS RECORDED,WE WILL DO LIKEWISE,AND PARTAKE OF THE BREAD FIRST, AND THEN THE CUP. TO PARTAKE OF THE CUP FIRST WOULD BE TO PUT THE"CART BEFORE THE HORSE",AND I WOULD NOT WANT TO DO SO;BECAUSE GOD MIGHT NOT BE AS WELL PLEASED WITH MY PLAN AS HE WAS WITH THE ONE CHRIST USED. REMEMBER IN JNO.6:38 JESUS SAID,"I CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN,NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL BUT TO DO THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME". NOW IF WE BELIEVE THAT CHRIST DID DO WHAT GOD WANTED HIM TO DO;THEN WE SHOULD NOT WANT TO CHANGE THE PLAN,AND DO OTHERWISE. NOW I HAVE NEVER MET A BROTHER WHO WANTED TO REVERSE THE ORDER OF THE PARTAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP,BECAUSE TO DO SO WOULD BE CHANGING THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE LORD, AND IF ANY BROTHER STARTED CONTENDING FOR THE IDEA OF TAKING THE CUP FIRST AND THE BREAD LAST,I DOUBT IF HE COULD GET ANYONE TO WORSHIP WITH HIM ON THOSE CONDITIONS.WE WOULD SAY;"NO,BROTHER,YOU ARE PUTTING THE CART BEFORE THE HORSE.YET MANY CONGREGATIONS,TODAY ARE MAKING A MISTAKE THAT IS JUST AS OBVIOUS. THEY ARE CHANGING THE ORDER OF EVENTS, AND AS A RESULT,THEY ARE NOT FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE SET BY CHRIST. THEREFORE THEY ARE NO LONGER FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST,BUT OF MEN,AS THE FOLLOWING WILL SHOW.

FROM A STUDY OF WHAT TOOK PLACE,AS RECORDED IN MATTH 26:26; MARK 14:22; LUKE 22:19;AND 1 COR.11:23,24;WE ARRIVE AT THE UNDISPUTABLE CONCLUSION THAT THE ACTION TOOK PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. TAKING OF THE BREAD.
2. THE THANKSGIVING.
3 THE BREAKING.
4 THE GIVING TO THE DISCIPLES.
5. THE EATING.

NOW CHRIST HIMSELF SET FORTH THIS ORDER OF ACTION,AND IT PLEASED GOD. IF WE FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE, WE ARE SURE THAT WE HAVE OUR HORSE AND CART PROPERLY HOOKED UP. BUT WAIT! HERE IS A BROTHER WHO SAYS THAT IT SHOULD BE DONE ANOTHER WAY.LET US EXAMINE HIS PLAN CAREFULLY,AND SEE WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE LORD'S PLAN. THIS BROTHER WANTS TO PERFORM THE SAME FIVE ACTS,BUT IN A DIFFERENT ORDER. HERE IS HIS PLAN;

1. THE TAKING OF THE BREAD.
2. THE THANKSGIVING.
3 THE EATING.
4 THE GIVING TO THE DISCIPLES.
5 THE BREAKING.

HOW COME BROTHER? YOU STARTED OUT ALRIGHT ON THE FIRST TWO ACTS. WHY DID YOU THEN CHANGE, AND PUT YOUR CART IN FRONT OF THE HORSE?? COMPARE THE TWO PLANS. ARE YOU TRYING FOR UNITY, WHEN YOU ASK YOUR BROTHER TO GIVE UP THE LORD'S PLAN, AND USE YOUR'S? LOOK AT THE RECORD. WHY DO YOU CONTEND FOR YOUR PLAN, AND DISFELLOWSHIP THE BRETHREN WHO FOLLOW THE ORDER SET FORT BY THE LORD? DO YOU THINK THAT YOU CAN MAKE MORE PROGRESS WITH YOUR CART IN FRONT OF YOUR HORSE?

WE ALSO HAVE AN IDENTICAL SITUATION CONCERNING THE CUP. LET US SEE HOW THEY HAVE CHANGED THE ORDER OF EVENTS IN THIS CASE. FROM THE BEFORE MENTIONED ACCOUNT WE FIND THAT THE ACTION PERTAINING TO THE CUP, TOOK PLACE IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER.

1. THE TAKING OF THE CUP.
2, THE THANKSGIVING.
3 THE GIVING TO THE DISCIPLES.
4. THE DIVIDING OF THE FRUIT OF THE VINE BY THE DISCIPLES. (LUKE 22:17; MARK 14:23) . NOW OUR BRETHREN WHO USE THE INDIVIDUAL CUPS, CHANGE THE ORDER OF EVENTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. THE DIVIDING OF THE FRUIT OF THE VINE. (BY ONE OF THE DISCIPLES, OR THE JANITOR).
2. RHE THANKSGIVING. (WE ARE NOT QUITE SURE WHAT THEY OFFER THANKS FOR).
3. THE GIVING TO THE DISCIPLES.
4. THE DRINKING. (AGAIN WE ARE NOT SURE WHAT THEY ARE DRINKING "OF")" BUT WE HAVE ANOTHER WHO SAYS, "WE DO NOT USE THOSE INDIVIDUAL CUPS, BECAUSE WE DON'T BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE DIVIDED, UNTIL AFTER THANKSGIVING, SO WE OFFER THANKS FOR THE FRUIT OF THE VINE IN ONE VOLUME AND THEN DIVIDE IT INTO TWO OR THREE CONTAINERS AND THEN GIVE IT TO THE CONGREGATION". WELL BROTHER YOU STILL HAVE YOUR HORSE BEHIND YOUR CART, FOR JESUS SAID, "DIVIDE IT <u>AMONG</u> YOURSELVES". AND HE GAVE IT TO THEM <u>BEFORE</u> HE TOLD THEM TO DIVIDE IT, AND HE TOLD ## THEM TO "TAKE IT", <u>BEFORE</u> DIVIDING IT. MARK TELLS US HOW THIS DIVIDING WAS DONE. "THEY ALL DRANK OF IT". NOT BY POURING A PART OF IT INTO ANOTHER CONTAINER.

LOOK AT THE RECORD BROTHER, WHO IS CAUSING THE CONFUSION AND DIVISION IN THE CHURCH, THE ONE WHO FOLLOWS THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST, OR THE ONE WHO CHANGES THE DIVINE ORDER?

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST, LET'S HITCH UP RIGHT AND GET GOING. IT MAY BE LATER THAN YOU THINK. LET US STOP TRYING TO MAKE THE CART PULL THE HORSE. LET US STOP EATING BEFORE # THE BREAKING AND THE GIVING TO THE DISCIPLES, AND LET US STOP GIVING TO THE DISCIPLES, BEFORE THE BREAKING. LET US ALL REALIZE THAT CHRIST'S BODY WAS BROKEN FOR US AND NOT FOR HIMSELF. (HE DIED FOR OUR SINS AND NOT FOR HIS OWN). <u>LET</u> US NOT DIVIDE THE FRUIT OF THE VINE AT THE COMMUNION TABLE, BUT DIVIDE IT AMONG OURSELVES.
"FOR EVEN HERE UNTO WERE YE CALLED: BECAUSE CHRIST ALSO SUFFERED FOR US, LEAVING US AN EXAMPLE, THAT YE SHOULD FOLLOW HIS STEPS."

WRITTEN IN LOVE OF THE TRUTH AND THE BROTHERHOOD, AND THE ## HOPE OF CAUSING SOMEONE TO SEE THE EXCELLENCY OF THE LORD'S WISDOM.

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