Fighting Wild Beasts Or Eat, Drink, Be Merry?

Tony Mauck · 1 Corinthians 15:12–34

INTRODUCTION

- If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.
- It doesn't sound pleasant to fight with wild beasts.

1 Eat, Drink, and Be Merry in the Scriptures

Ecclesiastes 8:15; Luke 12:16–21; Isaiah 22:13

- As the scriptures use that phrase, it's not always spoken of negatively as much as it is just an expression of festivity and joy.
- There is a negative element to it if one's soul is not right with God.
- The rich fool who tore down his barns and built bigger barns, he is going to eat, drink, and be merry. But this night, his soul was going to be required of him.
- Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die. But the Lord of hosts reveals himself, surely this iniquity shall not be forgiven you.

2 If Christ Has Not Been Raised

Philippians 2:9–13; 1 Corinthians 15:12–18

- If Jesus Himself was not raised, which is the foundation of our resurrection and our hope in it, then why am I fighting wild beasts in Ephesus?
- Believer, at the very least, has a hope beyond this life.
- I am one hundred percent certain that there is something beyond this life, that we indeed have a creator, and that Jesus has risen from the dead.
- God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name.
- If Christ has not been raised, what in the world are we doing here?

3 Of All Men Most to Be Pitied

1 Corinthians 15:19; Proverbs 13:15

- If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.
- It is not because living the principles and morality of Christianity are otherwise miserable.
- Christianity is conducive to healthy relationships here.
- Why should the believer be pitied if Christ has not been raised? Because he is committed fervently to what is false.
- All of life and its pursuits have thus been built on a false premise and hope.

4 Know the Potential Extremes of Faithful Commitment

- You need to know the potential extremes of faithful commitment. God is not the only force at work in the world.
- You will be tenaciously opposed in service to the king.
- Rejoice in the fact that you're suffering as a Christian and in that name, glorify God. It is with difficulty that the righteous are saved.
- Trust your soul to a faithful creator in doing what is right. And do not be dissuaded in the pursuit.
- Know that God is still with you. Whatever it is, it's temporary. And it is spiritually survivable.

5 Live It Up, but Problems Will Still Be Ahead

- Aging and death are not absolutely avoidable.
- The strength of any man is minimal to ward off all that life will throw at you.
- There are things beyond your ability to control in this world, in this life.
- While it sounds good in the moment, eat, drink, and be merry. I promise you. Problems will still be ahead.

THE CHALLENGE

And if you're on a destructive path, change it. Be determined to change it today.

MY NOTES