

The Unreasonable Gospel

But what makes it unreasonable? The many hard sayings? How could it even be possible to obey these certain demands:

- 1) Mk 10:17-30
- 2) Lk 14:26-33
- 3) Lk 12:51-53
- 4) Lk 9:57-62
- 5) Mt 10:37-39
- 6) Mt 13:44-46
- 7) Jn 12:25-26
- 8) Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35
- 9) Acts 5:32
- 10) Jn 3:36

So, this is why it still takes a community where the demands and hard sayings of the gospel are so reasonable. As a matter of fact, the community, which is the Body of Messiah, cannot be possible any other way except through the obedience to the faith.

Unreasonable means not reasonable, as the rich young ruler may have said to himself (Mk 10:17,21,22). As explained in Mk 10:28-30, eternal life is given under no other conditions, which means if one does not obey the gospel, one does not trust the Giver — the One who went into death for you (Col 1:13-14). Sounds unreasonable? The Gospel of the Kingdom is unreasonable to anyone who is not willing to do His will (Jn 7:17). They may prove to be the liars it speaks of in 1 Jn 2:4, who say they know Him but will not obey Him (Rev 21:8).

Unreasonable means not rational — irrational, showing little sense in demanding things not possible to do, i.e., Lk 14:33. What would one do — starve to death? Spend the rest of your life hating yourself? (Jn 12:25)

So the demands of those hard words are excessive, and He could not have meant them in a literal sense. They are not just, but are excessive, exorbitant, irrational, contrary to reason, senseless demands. Nature provides no environment to live according to such demands, to the point of being absurd, insensible, laughable, ridiculous. Jesus must have been mentally unsound to expect people to obey these utterly illogical imperatives in His teachings, which are directly contrary to reason — unreasonable demands.

The unreasonable demands of the gospel are laughably inconsistent with what is judged true or reasonable by one who was the most intelligent of men — the Son of Man. Jn 3:16 — It also sounds a little absurd that God would do such a thing for puny mankind, whom He loved so much.

The gospel's demands — the “hard sayings” — are ludicrous to the natural mind, even preposterous, which describes the flagrantly absurd or ludicrous command Jesus gave the rich young ruler in Mk 10:21, and all men in verses 28-30 (Lk 14:26,33; Mt 10:37). It is silly and ridiculous to apply the hard sayings to one's life in a literal sense, which would be extreme foolishness, an absurdity to say the least.

But, when one sees what it takes in order to create the Body, which is a community, it makes sense (Col 1:18; Eph 1:22-23). For it takes a community, you know! At least the first disciples knew, and so did the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32).

To *believe* in Jn 3:16 is to live as one who believes lives (Acts 2:44). Then it all makes sense! It *still* takes a community.