

“A JEWEL IN YOUR NOSE”

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Lately, a certain meme has circulated in which a woman wearing a nose ring is compared with pigs doing the same. The intent is manifestly offensive, and what’s worse is that those circulating the blatant insult seem to feel morally justified doing so. When challenged, some even call the adornment “Satanic,” but present no Scripture to support the allegation. If facial jewelry is wrong, inspiration will prove as much, but if it doesn’t, then honest disciples need to repent of their unkindness.

The Lord Jehovah once likened Israel to a poor, helpless child whom He nurtured and lavished with refinement. Describing *“My splendor which I had bestowed on you”* (Ezekiel 16:14), God said, *“I put a jewel in your nose”* (12). Figuratively speaking, God does the very thing that certain self-righteous people scoff at.

What God did allegorically, Abraham’s servant did literally when tasked with finding a wife for Isaac (Genesis 24:22, 30). After the man found Rebekah, he explained to her family, *“I put the nose ring on her nose and the bracelets on her wrists. And I bowed my head and worshiped Jehovah, and blessed Jehovah God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master’s brother for his son”* (47-48). This woman was sought out in pursuit of fulfilling God’s promise to Abraham. If Abraham, his servant, Isaac, or Rebekah sinned in the transaction of this dowry, the disapproval was omitted from the divine record.

Groping desperately for a text to confirm their bias, some grasp at the wisdom of Solomon: *“As a ring of gold in a swine’s snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion”* (Proverbs 11:10). This is a real stretch, though. Swine snouts are sometimes pierced to prevent them from rooting and digging, and since pigs proverbially *“wallow in the mire”* (2nd Peter 2:22), it would be senseless for that very useful nose ring to be made of gold. Precious metals are wasted in such dirty work, just like beauty is wasted on a woman who is indiscrete. Absolutely nothing from this passage of Scripture can be properly construed to cast aspersions on a human being who wears a nose ring. The verse does not even address that situation at all.

Some sincere concern might be raised by an appeal to those Scriptures which address outward adornment. *“Do not let your*

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adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel — rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God” (1st Peter 3:3-4; cf. 1st Timothy 2:9-10). To the extent this is applicable, it must apply equally to all jewelry, including earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, arm bands, and anklets, as well as to cosmetics, hair styling, and anything but the plainest, cheapest clothes. One must be consistent, or risk the sin of hypocrisy. Of course, the point is to emphasize *“the hidden person of the heart”* over outward adornment, not to castigate all efforts at physical beautification.

Since the inspired word of God does not treat nose piercings as immoral, and, in fact, openly demonstrates approval for such ornamentation, then it is conclusively wrong to disparage those who opt to wear nose rings. *“Love... does not behave rudely”* (1st Corinthians 13:4-5). *“But the fruit of the Spirit is... kindness”* (Galatians 5:22).

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(10:3). There will be opponents and enemies and hurdles to climb. So, don’t be naïve as you do this work.

He wanted them dependent upon his provision as they carried *“neither money bag, knapsack, nor sandals”* (10:4, 7-8). God will *“give the increase”* (1st Corinthians 3:6-7) and provide (Matthew 6:33).

He taught them to go into *“houses”* (10:5-6). They would change hearts one conversation at a time. The best evangelistic work is not always done in pulpits, but often in living rooms.

He encouraged helping people (10:9). He said, *“heal the sick there.”* Our opportunities for good will increase as our reputation for good deeds increases. Do good.

He knew there would be a time to walk away (10:10-11). Not all will hear or receive the message. So, when that occurs, we must not keep forcing it, but know when it is time to go.

He reminded them not to take rejection personally (10:16). *“He who hears you hears Me, he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me”* (Luke 10:16).

When the seventy obeyed His instructions, they *“returned with joy”* (10:17). Do God’s work God’s way and God will bless it in His way.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Eve found the serpent more trustworthy than God, not because of its credentials, but because the serpent said what Eve wanted to hear."

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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EVANGELISM LESSONS FROM THE 70

Joshua Welch, adapted

Luke 10:1-16 contains an account where Jesus had sent out seventy of His disciples *"into every city and place where He Himself was about to go."* This evangelistic method has some simple pointers that may help us as we try to reach lost souls. Consider a few points:

Jesus didn't try to do it alone. He had already sent out *"twelve disciples"* (Luke 9:1-5). He was sending out *"seventy others"* in this passage (10:1). Evangelism is a team effort. If a church is preacher-reliant to do all the evangelism, it is being done wrong.

He sent them out "two by two" (10:1). There may be wisdom in going with an evangelism partner. They may provide an alternative approach, protection, and accountability.

He asked for pre-evangelism work in "every city and place where He Himself was about to go" (10:1). Do you share announcements of upcoming sermons and spiritual opportunities to prepare the crowd? No work of the church will succeed if the church itself does not support and invite.

He was optimistic, saying "the harvest truly is great" (10:2). Sometimes a pessimistic approach to evangelism is like pouring water on hot coals. Be positive and pray.

He was also realistic, saying "I send you out as lambs among wolves"
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