



## *Sweet As Honey*

*Isn't interesting that when the Magi followed the star to Jerusalem and asked about the birth of a king, that everyone in Israel not only did not dispute that the Messiah was coming and was probably Who the Magi were looking for, but knew **all** the biblical facts concerning the Messiah? They knew and correctly recited Scripture to tell the Magi the correct location to seek the Messiah, but they themselves did not act on this knowledge.*

In Revelation 10:9-11 John relates:

*"So I went to the angel, telling him to give me the little book. And he said to me, 'Take it and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey.' I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and in my mouth it was sweet as honey; and when I had eaten it, my stomach was made bitter. And they said to me, 'You must prophesy again concerning many peoples and nations and tongues and kings.'"*

The taste of God's Word is sweet as honey in our mouth but turns our stomach bitter. How so?

To paraphrase Jesus in his concluding remarks in the Sermon on the Mount, it's the difference between "hearers" of the Word and "doers". Hearing God's Word, receiving it's encouragement and edification by way of sermon or teaching is sweet and sustaining and full of hope. At that moment we see the possibilities of overcoming sin, of changing our ways. But acting upon the Word, doing what it takes to apply it to

our life and change our behavior—that's a completely different situation. Often it turns bitter in our stomach, so to speak, as we're faced with the whether or not we'll actually be a "doer".

In spite of what we might wish or how we might feel, **knowing** is not enough. In Matthew 7:21-23 Jesus says,

*"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'"*

Notice how Jesus describes those who know everything about Him, who use His name and yet do not put into practice His words: "...you who practice lawlessness." It's not about **knowledge**, but **obedience**.

We need to consider whether we participate in spiritual events such as church, Sunday School or even Bible studies only to the degree that we're listening. It's "sweet" and pleasing and pleasant to our ears. But because there's no digestion of the Word—putting it into practice—ultimately there's bitterness.

Taking the necessary time each day to read and "digest" God's Word in our daily devotions with Him is critical towards becoming a "doer" rather than just a "hearer".

In His Name,

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