

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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How Serious Is Our Confession To Jesus?

Jerry Fite

It has been a week now since the release of Steve Centanni, an American Fox News reporter, and Olaf Wiig, a New Zealand cameraman after they were held hostage for 13 days in Gaza by the Holy Jihad Brigades. Before their release, Centanni and Wiig were made to spill out Anti-American statements, and at gun point convert to Islam. The propaganda and conversion was aired throughout the Muslim world via Al-Jazeera television.

Centanni claimed on tape, “*I have embraced Islam and say the word Allah.*” He confessed “*the prophet Mohammad*” as his “*leader.*” Many Americans believe Centanni did the right thing, because they work from the principle that saving one’s life in order to be available for dependant family members is essential. Some humanists reacted by saying they would say anything to save their live at that moment and “live to fight another day.”

Christians internalizing Centanni’s ordeal, hope they would be willing to die for the Lord Jesus Christ in such a situation before they would ostensibly convert to Allah, Mohammad and

Islam. But they are slow to condemn Centanni because they know the pressure that such a situation has upon one’s best intentions. In their memory bank lies Peter determined to die with the Lord, but when the proof of his convictions were tested, he succumbed to denying the Lord (*Matt. 26:35, 69-75*).

Some see Peter manifesting a weak faith, and know others in the Bible manifested the strong faith of martyrdom and conclude the Lord accepts us if we have faith, regardless if it is weak or strong. The Calvinist influence upon the Denominational world, deemphasizing works, comes to the forefront when many reason that the matter with Centanni has nothing to do with his salvation. Is this true from the revealed perspective of Jesus?

The public confession which Peter made when he confessed Jesus to be “*the Christ, the Son of the living God*” is the foundation stone upon which Jesus promised to build His church (*Matt. 16:16-18*). The moment we express our belief and conviction before men is very important to Jesus. But Peter is not at gun-point. Does not God give us a

pass in life or death situations?

Early Christians were threatened with their life if they did not compromise with the Devil and confess Caesar as Lord. The Holy Spirit records this about them: “*They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb, and because of the word of their testimony; and they loved not their life even unto death*” (*Revelation 12:11*). The Lord does not promise us the crown of Life if we are faithful up to the point of escaping death, but “*even unto death*” (*Revelation 2:10*).

It is all for Jesus in the presence of others or nothing from Jesus. He says, “*he that is not with me is against me...*” (*Luke 11:23*). Jesus has promised to “*confess*” us “*before the Father*” if, and only if, we “*confess him before men*” (*Matthew 10:32*).

The Muslims may have only wanted propaganda showing the West’s lack of conviction to die for their faith. Jesus demands we confess Him before men even if it means *losing our “life for His sake”*, for He says we will then “*find it*” (*Matt. 16:25*)! Look beyond men’s rhetoric and hear what the Lord demands from us all.