

## 22T03 Shake My Head

Hello my friends. Thanks for joining me @ the PUNLA coffee table. Have you ever been listening to someone and just shook your head in frustration or disgust at what they were saying? You probably don't have to try hard to find an example these days. Just turn on the TV or radio, we have plenty to make us shake our heads.

I was driving listening to Christian Radio as usual. I was catching the end of one program and beginning of another. Both of these speakers were pastors I know and respect. But I found myself shaking my head.

First, I listened to about 15 minutes about how sad it is people don't go to church to find answers. Remembrance about how full our churches were after 9/11. And on and on the message went. What struck me was at no point in this talk did the pastor mention praying or reading the bible, only coming to church and hearing sermons. I was pretty frustrated at this omission. And as the pastor wrapped up his message it became more and more about him, that is this particular pastor. He can help you answer your questions. Read his book. Listen to his podcasts. Come to his church and oh yeah please give to support his ministry so he can help others like you. Superficially it sounded okay but as I meditated on what he had said. I could not remember him mentioning Jesus or the bible or praying. Just a whole lot about him. I became disgusted at his arrogance. I came away with the impression this pastor thought he was the key to solving every problem. I just had to shake my head. God is the only one who can solve every problem. I wished he'd said something like "if you need help, we can pray with you. We recommend you read your bible and pray to God for help with your situation." But he didn't.

The next program was a sermon from the pastor of one of Americas largest mega-churches. The message was about Noah. Noah is a story I love, so I was hoping for something to change my mood. Then he began and my heart sunk. He said, "you know Noah was not 6 foot 8 and full of muscles. He was a small man. Noah was not a craftsman; he was just a simple farmer. Noah was not... Noah was not... Noah was not... and on and on and on he went with his speech as if he really knew this stuff. First of all, none of this stuff he said was in the Bible. In fact, there is no way any man living today could know these details. These were just embellishment to the story given as facts by a man with great influence in the Christian community. Okay let me be clear, these were just plain lies.

Here was a respected man of God lying over and over from his pulpit. I was ashamed and again all I could do is shake my head. I began to think about other respectable pastors on the radio and TV which I'd heard spouting conjecture or make believe as facts. I just turned the radio off and sat in silence for a while. What has happened to us? Since when do we need such fantasy to embellish the biblical stories and texts. Then it hit me square in my forehead. These guys don't believe the bible is enough. They feel they need to sensationalize the stories for effect. I just shook my head. Aren't we deceived when we start thinking we need to add to the bible stories to get people's attention?

Now I'm all for learning extra-biblical facts or better my understanding of culture and history surrounding events recorded in the bible. Its important to understand the original language words to broaden and deepen our understanding of God's word. But do we really need to add make-believe concepts to our discussions and use lies and false statements presented as facts. With none of the necessary disclaimers like, "In my opinion" or "Probably could be" or "based on my research, I think". No, we have an epidemic of "I think it therefore it is and then let me share it with everyone as truth" rather than the fiction it really is. It's just an opinion, then you better say so. It's just...., no it's just a lie.

One thing for certain. If I ever do this. Call me, write me. Tell me I'm wrong. Ask me where did you get that information or idea. Don't let me toss out make believe as truths. Shame on any God fearing person who would. Especially those in powerful influential positions. Shame on them. And shame on us for letting them. The Bible has a lot of verses about lying but I think Proverbs is the clearest, *The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in those who tell the truth. (Proverbs 12:22 NLT)*

Me, I don't like the sounds of the Lord detests. No matter the reason or intentions lying is bad. Lying is unnecessary. God detests lies.

I just wanted to share my 2 cents worth on this because it bothered me so much. I felt God wanted me to share so here it is. All Christians need to be on the look out for things like this. This is tearing the truth of God apart. If you hear a lie or misspeak, then say so. It is best for the speaker; it is best for the listeners, and it is best for you and me. Truth is truth and there is only one truth. Right is right and God alone is truly righteous.

**Let us pray.**

**Heavenly Father. Thank you for your word the Bible. Thank you for the Holy Spirit who guides and convicts us. Thank you for your truth, so we can know what is right and wrong. Help me to watch me words and say yes for yes and no for no. Be clear when I'm guessing and be clear when I'm sharing my opinions. I pray for every listener that they may recognize truth and fiction and be able to discern your truth no matter who is telling them something. We pay in your name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Thank you for joining me @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. If you liked the message, please click like. And Please Subscribe to our channel. Leave comments here, or our website or mail me. I want your feedback so let me know what you think.

See you next time @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. God bless.