

Leonardo and the King of France



Leonardo Da Vinci was perhaps the greatest artist of the period in history known as the Renaissance. He was born in Italy where he spent most of his life. When he was an old man, the King of France invited him to live in his country as his honored guest. Leonardo accepted the Kings gracious offer, and with three paintings, a few belongings, and one apprentice, left for his new home. The king gave him living quarters in a castle not far from Paris. King Francis I did not require much work of his renown guest. Once Leonardo staged a great reception with lots of artwork in honor of a royal family member, but for the most part, his last years were quiet ones. Towards the end of Leonardos life King Francis made it a habit to pay the painter visits. The King of France enjoyed talking with Da Vinci like a friend on many subjects.

A legend has it, that one day King Francis came to visit his friend and discovered Leonardo was dying. Leonardo had laid in bed unable to move all day, but to honor his royal guest he tried to sit up. The King looked with pity on the struggling Leonardo, and then sat down on the side of the bed. He put his arm tenderly around Leonardo to support him. While the King held him, Leonardo confessed to wasting much of his life and his talent. Then he died in the arms of the King.

This story may be a legend, but it is based on the fact that the King of France was fond of the great painter and paid him frequent visits.

Like Leonardo, we too, will have to pass out of this scene. the. We may not die in the arms of a King of a great country, but each one of us, by Gods grace, can enter with joy into the presence of the great King of the Universe. Who is the King of the Universe? He is the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. On the cross he shed his precious blood and opened up the way for sinners to find forgiveness. Everyone forgiven of their sins will find a home and special place of nearness to the Lord Jesus Christ.

King Francis might have been a ruler over millions of people and able to command armies to do his will, but he was just as powerless as the poorest beggar in his kingdom when it

came to forgiving sins committed against God. Forgiveness can be obtained only through the Lord Jesus. The Bible says of all those who believe in him, In whom we have redemption through his blood even the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.

The sins which would have barred forever a our entrance into heavens glories can be cleansed away by the Saviors blood. The wonderful truth for every one who believes on Gods Son is that their sins are gone. They have received the forgiveness of sins not in lieu of any good qualities they might posses, but because they have placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and what he did on the cross. And being forgiven, when they pass out of this world they will enter into the presence of their Lord.

The sad truth for all those who never come to faith in Christ is that they will be lost for eternity. Sin is a terrible thing because it has the power to sink people into hell. It is not the harmless plaything many people would like to believe it is. God hates sin. There is no such thing as small sins. All sin is really an affront to the majesty of God. It is really saying unto him, You are not the supreme being in the universe. I am just as competent to know right and wrong as you, and therefore can choose to do whatever I want.

Sin brings about a state of separation from God in this life, and unless a person repents and turns to the Lord Jesus in faith in their life time, this seperation will be continued in the next life in a place of eternal punishment.

What a bleak future awaits those who never see their need of salvation. A criminal might receive a prison sentence for x number of years, and stagger under the weight of their punishment.

But what will it be for you, if you never come to the Lord Jesus, when you pass out of this world, and you stand before the great Judge, and you hear him say, Depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. How will you reel under the staggering weight of an eternal punishment!

The good news is that no one needs to perish. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life. At the cross the Lord Jesus made the supreme sacrifice that we might be forgiven. Christ died for our sins. Dont trifle with sin but believe on the Lord Jesus Christ to have those sins washed away.

According to the legend, Leonardo died in the arms of a great King. Wont you accept the Savior so that if death takes you, you might enter into the wonderful presence of the Lord Jesus? It is no legend, but truth indeed, that Jesus Christ died, rose again, and now waits to receive all those who believe on him in this life to heaven above. What a moment for every believer that will be, when all sorrows including death disappear, and they enter with joy unspeakable into the presence of their Lord. Dont miss it for anything in this world. Place your trust in Him now, even before you lay down this little paper. Behold now is the accepted time; Behold today is the day of salvation.

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