

Table Talk—Part Two

Rev. Adam Moline

This week continues some tidbits from the Table Talk volume of Luther. Many quotes this week come from the same evening—October 27, 1536, must have been a busy night! We also have a few other tidbits from the “What Luther Says” volume.

- “As for myself, I judge the loss of all one’s possessions easier to bear than the loss of a faithful friend” - What Luther Says
- “It is remarkable that God has committed to us preachers the ministry of the Word for the ruling of men’s hearts, which we can’t look into. But this is the office of God, who says to us, ‘Preach! I shall give the increase. I know the hearts of men.’ This should be our comfort, even when the world laughs at our office. So it is said that Maximillian (Previous German Emperor) once burst out in hearty laughter at himself, and he explained it the next day: ‘I laugh to think that God has committed his rule to a drunk and nasty cleric and to a goat like climber.’” - October 27, 1536
- One is a Christian, not because he gives to Christ but because he accepts from Christ. A Christian is not an active but a passive person, one who only allows things to be given to him. If you do not permit things to be given to you, you are not Christian. You are not called a Christian from what you do—for then you should be called a ‘worker’ - but because you have Christ. How so? You did not make Him, as a vessel, but you had to let Him be given to you through the Gospel. This is easily said. But try it.—What Luther Says
- “Tomorrow I have to lecture on the drunkenness of Noah, so I should drink enough this evening to be able to talk about that wickedness as one who knows by experience.” - October 27, 1536



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- The province of a friend is freely to admonish his friend when he errs in any respect. And he who has been admonished, if only he is wise, is not angry with the other for having given him a friendly admonition and having shown him the truth, but is grateful and shows his gratitude to him. To be sure, in the world the commonest experience is that the truth reaps hatred, and he is regarded an enemy who tells the truth. But this does not happen among friends, much less among Christians.—What Luther says
- “How is it that the first drink from a tankard tastes best? Perhaps its on account of sin, because our flesh and our lips are sinful.” - October 27, 1536
- “Our Lord God wishes himself to be the preacher, for preachers often go astray in their notes so that they can't go on with what they have begun. It has often happened to me that my best outline came undone. On the other hand, when I was least prepared my words flowed during the sermon.” - October 27, 1536
- Dr. Justus Jonas praised the glorious blessing which God grants in fruit. “I have a branch with cherries on it hanging over my table,” he said, “in order that when I look at it I may learn the article about divine creation.” —
Dr. Luther responded, “Why don't you learn it daily by looking at your children, the fruit of your body? They're there every day, and surely they amount to much more than all the fruit of the trees! There you may see the providence of God, who created them from nothing. In half a year he gave them body, life, and limb, and he will also sustain them. Yet we overlook them, as if those gifts of God made us blind and greedy, as it usually happens that men become worse and more greedy when they have offspring; they don't realize that every child is apportioned his lot according to the saying, 'the more children the more luck.' Dear God, how great are the ignorance and the wickedness of man, who doesn't thing about the best gifts of God but does just the opposite.”
- “This is the highest and best art: to cling firmly to the Word and not to think otherwise of matters divine than to Word tells us.” - From a Luther Sermon in 1532
- Christian life consists in a growing confidence in God and a diminishing confidence in oneself.—What Luther Says

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