

Jesus Take the Wheel So I Can Take a Baseball Bat to my Boyfriends Truck

Jeremiah 7:1-7

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December 17, 2006

Carrie Underwood is one of the new stars of the Country Western genre of music. Below are lines from two of her recent songs, "Jesus Take the Wheel" and "Before He Cheats." They provide us with our title. Her words well illustrate the always popular disconnect between religious words and religious actions.

Jesus take the wheel

Take it from my hands
Cause I can't do this all own my own
I'm letting go
So give me one more chance
To save me from this road I'm on

I dug my key into the side of his pretty little suped up 4 wheel drive,
carved my name into his leather seat...

I took a Louisville slugger to both head lights,
slashed a hole in all 4 tires...
maybe next time he'll think before he cheats.

Jeremiah 7:1-7

- The problem of disconnecting words from deeds is ancient.
- The reason for the dissonance is a matter of the heart (cf. Mk. 7:14-23).
- To "say" and "do not," though a practice with a storied past, is, nevertheless, an abomination to God (cf. Matt. 23:1-39, esp. v. 3).

You Get What You Pay For In Cheap Religion (Matt. 6:1, 2, 5, 16)

- Our reward is the momentary recognition of the act.
- Outward religion has no enduring character.
- Hypocrisy and pretence, no matter how well disguised, only contribute to temporal vanities (cf. II Cor. 4:16-18).

However, Letting Jesus Really Take the Wheel Carries the Greatest of Rewards (cf. Matt. 6:3-4, 6, 17-18)

- Loss is gain (Matt. 10:39).
- Grace is for the faithful (I Cor. 4:1-2; Rom. 6:23; Titus 2:11-12).
- Sincerity, oneness of heart and deed, is powerful and comforting (II Tim. 4:7-8; cf. Phil. 3:7-14).

Jesus does need to take the wheel. When He does, the Louisville Slugger will rest easy in its place. If the heart rather than just the lips invite Jesus to take control, a consistency of word and deed will result. Let the power and comfort of the consistency rule (cf. Matt. 5:16)!