

I am just completing a book by Steve Cioccolanti entitled: **FROM BUDDHA TO JESUS**. Steve was born in Thailand. At twenty, the former Buddhist was born again as a Christian. In this book, he tries to show the similarities between Buddhism and Christianity.

Buddha told a story (parable) comparing people to the lotus. Some lotuses are above water, some are at the same level as the water, some are beneath the water, and some are at the bottom in the mud. People above the water are smart people who can listen and learn and grow. Those at the same level as the water have average intelligence. Those beneath the water have little intelligence and take a lot of effort to learn. Finally those in the mud are ignorant and unwilling to learn. Buddha classified people into 4 categories.

The author claims that this story is similar to the parable of the Sower, where people are also classified into 4 types.

Buddha taught 4 great truths. Firstly, in life there is suffering and no one can escape. Secondly, the cause of suffering is sin (karma). Thirdly, the goal of life is to escape the law of karma. Fourthly, is to discipline the flesh by following many rules.

The author eventually realized that Buddha was searching for a way to escape the suffering that results from accumulated karma. Buddha pointed to the way. Jesus said, "I am the Way" (John 14:6)

The author also mentioned that evangelist always preach Grace to sinners and Law to saints instead of the other way around, this result in saints who feel condemned and sinners who pray the "sinner's prayer" without an ounce of repentance.

Buddha pointed out that people who have karma will go to one of the 8 levels of Hell. Level 1 is for those who kill animals, insects, other humans or self. Level 2 is for those who cheat and steal. Level 3 is for those who engage in sexual immorality, pornography, adultery, homosexuality, etc. Level 4 is for those who lie, curse, tell vulgar jokes, talk non-stop or talk too much. Level 5 is for those who drink alcohol or use drugs. Level 6 is for those who indulge in vices, like gambling.

I don't need to elaborate further because everyone seems destined for Hell unless they can find a way of escape. *If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* – Romans 10:9

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