

Jesus was Intolerant

November 25, 2012 ~ "Christian Materialism #7" ~ John 12.46-48

Jesus was Perfect

- ❖ To be our Savior Jesus had to be sinless ~ And so He was . . .
- ❖ But many of us appreciate '*sinless perfection*' more from a distance
 - ✧ Getting too close to the perfect makes people uncomfortable
 - ✧ Jesus' half-brothers resented Him and His growing popularity
 - ◇ **Read John 7.1-8** ~ "The world .. hates Me because I testify .. that its works are evil"
- ❖ "What do you think life was like in their home?"

Jesus was the Perfect Elder Brother

- ❖ Jesus was part of a big family (**Mk 6.3** James, Joseph, Simon & Judas ~ sisters)
 - ✧ He was eldest / With Joseph dead He was head of home / He was perfect
 - ✧ It could not have been easy living with someone perfect
 - "But perhaps not as hard as living with those that just think they are .. 😊"
 - ◇ His mother knew the miracle of His birth ~ but did her children?
 - III: While You Were Sleeping ~ "Cutting cards for Lucy" (Bill Pullman)
 - III: Mary asking boys, "Why can't you be more like Jesus? .. He's perfect"
 - His brothers resented Him / perfection ~ popularity
 - As His ministry began to grow perhaps they all thought He was crazy . . .
 - "Your mother and your brothers .." (**Mt 12, Mk 3, Lk 8**)
 - III: Beauty and the Beast ~ "come to collect your father. . ." (**Mt 12.46**)
- ❖ Neighbors resented Jesus ~ **Read Mk 6.1-3** "they were offended at Him"
 - ✧ At start of ministry they tried to kill Him ~ **Luke 4.16-30**
 - ◇ "Familiarity breeds contempt"

Jesus is Our Perfect Example

- ❖ Paul tells us in **Romans 8.29** that we are "predestined to be conformed to the image of God's Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren."
- ❖ Again in **Col 3.10** that we have "put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him .."
- ❖ Paul also said this to the Corinthians . . . **Read 2 Cor 3.17-18**

Xition: Jesus is our perfect example. . . We are to consciously emulate Him . . .

We Must Study Him to Understand Him

- ❖ Let's start by looking at 4 of his character traits . . .
- 1. Acts of compassion ~ (healing of leper; overlooking Jerusalem)
- 2. Overwhelmed by grief ~ (at grave of Lazarus)
- 3. Righteous anger ~ (overturning tables of \$ changers; healing of hand)
- 4. Iconoclastic actions ~ courage ~ (speaking to woman at well – healing leper)

1. The Perfect Compassion of Jesus

- ❖ Christ's compassion is probably His most evident trait in gospels
 - ❖ For this people wanted to make Him king . . . (*not surprising*)
 - ❖ III: Civil War politics ~ I have deeper 1) understanding & 2) respect for them . . .
- ❖ Many examples of Christ's compassion from which to choose ~ Three
- 1. **Mt 9.36** ~ “But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”
 - ❖ Jesus went out teaching, preaching, healing and feeding the multitudes . . .
- 2. **Read Mark 1.40-45** ~ healing of the lone leper
 - ❖ Lepers lived a solitary existence ~ they were despised outcasts ~ no touch
- 3. **Mt 23.37** ~ “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!”

2. The Perfect Sadness / Grief of Jesus

- ❖ **Read John 11.3-7** ~ “Jesus loved .. so .. He stayed 2 more days ..”
- ❖ **Read John 11.32-35** ~ “Jesus saw her weeping .. He groaned .. Jesus wept”
 - ❖ III: “He wept” ~ **John 11.35** ~ “Layne's license plate”
- ❖ Jesus groaned not only for Mary and Lazarus ~ but for all who grieve death

3rd is Anger ~ But 1st the Sinful Anger of Man

- ❖ The next trait we'll cover is anger ~ but first let's consider man's anger . . .
- ❖ Concerning man's anger **James** wrote ~ **(NIV) 1.19-20** ~ “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”
 - ❖ James spoke only of fallen man's anger of course . . .

Xition: Our anger is prone to be self-oriented ~ But Christ's was other-oriented

3. The Perfect Anger of Jesus

- ❖ The perfect righteous anger of Christ was shown several times ~ Two
 1. **Read John 2.13-17** ~ Jesus cleanses the temple ~ “whip”
 2. **Read Mark 3.1-5** ~ Jesus heals hand on Sabbath ~ “looked .. with anger”

4. The Courageous Behavior of Jesus ~ Iconoclast (destroyed “sacred cows”)

- ❖ Many incidents capture this aspect of Christ’s behavior
 - ✧ Speaking with tax collectors, prostitutes, etc...
 - ✧ Calling the Pharisees and scribes “hypocrites” repeatedly
 - ✧ My favorite is the Samaritan woman at the well (**John 4**)
 - ◇ Jesus broke 3 Jewish taboos in this incident . . .
 - 1) Favor of Samaritan (*impure*), 2) woman (*lesser*), 3) living in sin (*sinner*)

One More Trait to Cover but 1st . . .

- ❖ **Reread John 14.46-48**
 - ✧ **v47b** ~ “If anyone does not believe .. I do not judge him”
 - ✧ **v47c** ~ “I did not come to judge but to save”
 - ✧ **v48a** ~ “He who rejects Me has that which judges him”
 - ✧ **v48b** ~ “The Word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day”
- ❖ We are to emulate Jesus so we must understand what He’s saying here . . .

“Is Jesus the Judge or Not?”

- ❖ Jesus said in **John 5.22**
 - ✧ “For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son”
- ❖ Jesus is obviously the judge of all the earth
 - ✧ “But how do we reconcile these verses?”
 - ◇ Listen again, “I do not judge him .. I did not come to judge, but to save”
 - ◇ And again, “The Word .. will judge Him in the last day”
- ❖ Jesus does not deny He is a Judge ~ He actually confirms it ~ He is the Word
 - ✧ But He is saying that He has not come in that capacity
 - ◇ Jesus is Prophet, Priest and King ~ judging is role of king (*not exercising*)
 - ◇ III: William Bissell ~ doctor, lawyer, army colonel, politician, governor
 - Titles: Doctor, Colonel, Honorable (*Illinois Rep and US Rep*)

Xition: There is 1 more character trait of Christ we must examine . . .

One Additional Character Trait of Jesus

- ❖ We spoke of His: 1) compassion, 2) grief, 3) anger and 4) courage
- ❖ But the title of this message is “**Jesus was Intolerant**”
- ❖ I want to examine the intolerance of Jesus . . . First let me ask 2 questions . . .
 - ✧ “*Of what was Jesus intolerant?*”
 - ✧ “*Are we to emulate Him in this?*”

5. The Intolerance of Jesus

- ❖ Two instances of Christ’s intolerance . . .
- ❖ **Read Mark 3.1-6** ~ “He .. looked around at them with anger, being grieved”
 - ✧ Jesus resigned Himself to death by actions such as this . . .
 - ◇ Jewish authorities hated Him because He
 - 1) broke their rules and
 - 2) accused them of misusing their authority
 - ◇ A societal proverb says, “**Go along to get along**”
 - ◇ III: Steve Anders guarding plane in desert to learn that lesson
- ❖ **Matthew 22 and 23**
 - ✧ Jesus silenced reasoned opposition in **Read Matthew 22.46**
 - ✧ He then opened up on them with both barrels in **Matthew 23**
 - ◇ 7 times He says, “**Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!**”

Jesus was and is a Savior and a Judge

- ❖ We emulate Him in both of these capacities
 - ✧ We don’t save but we point to the Savior . . .
 - ✧ But we tend to get mixed up as to when to do each and to whom . . .
- ❖ Paul Clarifies this for us plainly in **1 Cor 5**
 - ✧ The chapter is only **13 verses** ~ And there are 2 sections
 - ✧ The first **vss 1 to 8** is entitled “**Immorality Defiles the Church**” (read 1 to 5)
 - ✧ The second **vss 9 to 13** is entitled “**Immorality Must be Judged**”
- ❖ Our role as judges is within the church
- ❖ Our role in saving is to point people to Christ ~ extend grace

Xition: We live by law and grace . . .

We Live by Law and Grace

- ❖ Last week we talked about the beauty of the 10 commandments
- ❖ A just society will honor and abide by such laws . . .
 - ✧ An unjust society rebels against them and suffers the penalties
- ❖ We want our society to be just ~ We long for it to be so . . .
 - ✧ Not only for our own sakes ~ but for everyone's
 - ✧ But just as the Jews rejected Christ ~ our society rejects Him
- ❖ Yet we are not judges of our society ~ Paul made this very clear . . .
 - ✧ We are to extend mercy
 - ✧ Christians have an endless supply of it from God
 - ✧ Yet to the degree we refuse to offer it ~ it dries up . . .

End of Series on “**Christian Materialism**”

- ❖ We live in a material world . . .
 - ✧ Our challenge is to not be seduced by it . . .
 - ✧ But to instead reach out to the lost in it with supernatural mercy . . .
- ❖ We are to pursue the Dominion Mandate and the Great Commission
 - ✧ Both require God's leading, blessing, grace and mercy . . .
 - ✧ Let us oppose hypocrisy in ourselves and in the church
- ❖ We are not to judge the lost around us . . .
- ❖ We are to minister the mercy of God to them like battlefield medics

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling,
And to present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,
To God our Savior, who alone is wise,
Be Glory and Majesty,
Dominion and Power,
Both now and forever.
Amen.