

What Do We Know About Jesus? (4)

Jesus and Disappointments

Reflect for a moment on the many times you have been disappointed, and you may be able to see that these are very similar to some of the disappointments of Jesus.

Now let us look at some disappointment that Jesus, the man, faced. In John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and they that were his own received him not." The very people that should have welcomed Jesus, should have gladly received and respected Him in every way; these people rejected Him! How do you suppose Jesus felt? Would He not be disappointed in this? Have you ever been rejected (even temporarily) by the very ones who should befriend you? How did you feel? Remember that worldly people hated Jesus because He condemned their evil works (John 7:7 The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that its works are evil.) Now this might be expected, but it would not be expected that "His Own" would reject Him as they did. What a disappointment that must have been!

Have you ever done something good, and then be criticized for that good work? Jesus came to the land of the Gadarenes and was doing good and only good! He was doing things that all should have appreciated, but did they? Look at their response to Jesus* good work; Mark 5:17 And they began to beseech him to depart from their borders. How do you think Jesus must have felt? Notice, that Jesus did not force himself upon them, He departed.

Let us turn our attention to one of His close friends. In Matthew 15:15-16 we have this recorded for us "And Peter answered and said unto him, Declare unto us the parable. And he said, Are ye also even yet without understanding?" Did you read this carefully? Do you see any disappointment in the question of Jesus? Peter should have understood, but he did not. Jesus patiently pointed out the meaning in answer to Peter's inquiry. Has someone close to you failed to understand what you were talking about? How did you feel?

In Matthew 26:26-29, Jesus had instituted the Lord's supper and then departed to the Garden of Gethsemane (36-38). Leaving the rest of the apostles, He took

with Him Peter, James and John and went a little further to pray. He had been treated very badly, been betrayed by Judas, and was soon to be arrested and tried. Then He would be put to death. Jesus was in agony (36-38); yet He found Peter, James and John all asleep. Read verses 37-47, to get the complete event. Jesus found them asleep three times. Were they really trying to share His burden, or comfort Him in His agony? Now let us look at verse (45) to see Jesus response to them; "Then cometh he to the disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners." Was He mad at them? Did He lay any accusations at their feet? Yet, He had to be terribly disappointed! A little bit later, these same three disciples, along with the rest forsook Jesus and fled (56). Would you not say, disappointment upon disappointment? How do you feel when your friends forsake you? When you are really troubled and need these friends/family, yet they walk out on you---how do you feel? You see, Jesus experienced this in a very real way!

In John 7:5, we see Jesus own fleshly brothers rejected Him. We are not talking about childish likes and dislikes, but we are talking about "mature" young men. The first four verses of this chapter show these brothers urging Jesus to go up to the feast where they knew He would be in grave danger. What kind of brothers are these? How do you suppose Jesus felt about this? Disappointments concerning our "love ones" can bring much heartache, can't they? Jesus faced this kind of disappointment!

Let me close with this Scripture: Phil.4:6-7 In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Let us all trust in God to grant our requests, as God sees our needs..