

What Do We Know About Jesus? (5)

Jesus and His Enemies

Thus far we have seen Jesus as a man, having Temptations, Disappointments, Sorrows, and Sufferings. The difference between ours and His is the degree of each, His being much greater than ours, thus, He can truly understand ours. Jesus had friends and enemies just like we do. Some of His friends, sometimes, became His enemies. How do you suppose Jesus felt about that? Some of His enemies tried various means in trying to trap Him in speech and conduct. When that didn't work, they falsely accused Him. How did Jesus react to these enemies? Did Jesus retaliate?

Do you have any enemies? What made them your enemies? Was it something you did, or are they your enemies in spite of what you have done? Can you change the situation? Is it "once your enemy always your enemy?"

In Luke 1:71, we learn that Jesus came in order that we might be saved from our enemies; "Salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;" We are also given some very specific instructions about how to treat our enemies. We can see this in Matthew 5:44, "but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute you;" Why do you think that Jesus would tell us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and pray for those who would wrongfully use and persecute us? It sure goes against man's logic, doesn't it? Could it be because one time we were enemies of God (Col.1:21 "And you, being in time past alienated and enemies in your mind in your evil works,")? Or, it may be that at one time, we were found in that number that were enemies of the cross of Christ (Phi.3:18 For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, {that they are} the enemies of the cross of Christ:"). God frequently tells us to do certain things because we, ourselves, were in that spot at one time or the other....

Remember the occasion when Jesus was accused of being a glutton (Mat.11:19 "The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold, a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners! And wisdom is justified by her works.") Would His friends have accused Him of such? Certainly not! Only His enemies would have done that! Have you ever been

betrayed by one of your friends? Jesus was (Psa. 41:9 "Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, Who did eat of my bread, Hath lifted up his heel against me."; Mat.26:14-16, 47-56). You know this occasion, it was when Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, to betray Jesus. Here was a friend that turned enemy! If that wasn't enough, they had false witnesses accuse Jesus of lying (Mat.26:60 "and they found it not, though many false witnesses came. But afterward came two,") How do you feel when you are sick and someone make fun of you? Now, suppose that you are dying and they still make fun of you! How would you feel?

Pharisees, Sadducees, and lawyers were enemies of Jesus at various times. The following passages tell us about some of those occasions: Mat.12:10, 14; 22:15; 26:4, 67; Mk.3:2, 6, 22; 7:2; 11:18; 12:12, 13; 14:1,10, 55, 64; 15:19, 29; Lk.4:29; 6:7; 11:54; 20 ;20; Jn.5:16-18. In John 13:2, ("And during supper, the devil having already put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's {son}, to betray him,") we learn that Satan was/is behind all the actions of the enemies of Jesus. Did Jesus treat His enemies the same way that He directs us? Look at Luke 23:34, Jesus is being crucified, look at His attitude, "And Jesus said, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And parting his garments among them, they cast lots.". Beloved, no other man could come remotely close to the depths and degree of Jesus' sufferings, and yet, during all of this His love for us is clearly shown. BY HIS EXAMPLE!!! Look at 1Peter 2:20-23 "For what glory is it, if, when ye sin, and are buffeted {for it}, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer {for it}, ye shall take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered threatened not; but committed {himself} to him that judgeth righteously:". Jesus did not repay them in kind; He did not revile when He was reviled. Then we are told that He is our example in this. Jesus did not retaliate; on the other hand Jesus did not sacrifice one iota of truth at any time! Remember this; HEB 10:13 henceforth expecting till his enemies be made the footstool of his feet. We know that the day is coming that all of Jesus' enemies will be made His footstool. Beloved, Therefore, We Need To Follow His Example Today! Read Jn.6:66.....

John 6:66 Upon this many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with

him. Have you ever had a friend forsake you and become your enemy? We see here that many of Jesus' disciples forsaking him. How do you suppose He felt about this? Don't you think that Jesus knows how we feel when our friends forsake us? one of the most touching stories in the Gospel is how some of the enemies of Jesus became His friends, Acts 2:36 "Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified. v.41 They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added {unto them} in that day about three thousand souls."

If Jesus could successfully react to His enemies, so that He Himself would do no wrong, and at least some of those enemies would later become His friends, it would seem that we can too! Don't you agree?