

What Do We Know About Jesus? (6)

Did Jesus Have Fun?

Have you ever given any thought to the happiness, joy, and laughter in the life of Jesus? No! Why not? It is there! Would you have had fun being a companion of Jesus?

Although there is not much recorded about Jesus' early childhood, I believe there is enough that we can understand His childhood if we look for it. It seems that most people think of Jesus as a man of sadness and sorrow. This habit has hidden the "lighter side" of Jesus. Perhaps we need to consider a few questions: Is happiness or joy all laughter? Can one rejoice without a "hurrah!" type of response? Can one have a good time, enjoy himself, without "gobs" of noise and boisterous gaiety? Maybe some one has "fed us a line" and we end up with the wrong definition of fun. In any case, perhaps we can learn something about fun and enjoyment by looking more closely at Jesus and His idea of fun.

Let us look at what is recorded about Jesus as a child; Luke 2:52 And Jesus advanced in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. This statement was made about Jesus when He was twelve years old, just becoming a teenager. We are not told any of His activities as a teenager, but I ask you to consider this--how did Jesus grow in favor of man? Did He accomplish this by being a "loner"? Did He do it by never showing up at community activities? Or His success is due to His being an "all-work-and-no-play" youngster! How would you explain His growing in favor of man? Beloved, it is here suggested that Jesus was a normal youngster in this respect--enjoying the normal activities of His day. Further, are we to think that there was no one around to speak vulgarities, to tell lies, to curse, to plan unacceptable activities, or to urge Jesus to do wrong? We have already found out that Jesus was tempted in all things like we are. Yet, we are told that He did not sin (1Peter 2:22). Remember He grew in favor of man! But, He grew in favor of man without sinning! Do we have to sin to grow in favor of man?

"But the things which proceed out of the mouth come forth out of the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart come forth evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, railings: these are the things which

defile the man;..."(Mt.15:18-20a). Not once was Jesus accused of vulgarity, dirty stories, suggestive tales, etc.; yet He grew in favor of man! Yes, most later turned against Jesus, and when He was arrested and brought to trial, it was said of Pilate, "For he knew that for envy they had delivered him up."(Mt.27:18). We have no reason to believe that Jesus had anything but an enjoyable and happy early life. But what about the last few years of His life? Let us see!

One man wrote "Christianity," the religion of Jesus Christ, "fits man's deepest need because it makes him concentrate on joys which do not pass away, rather than on the inevitable grief which is superficial." Notice, "joys which do not pass away." Not just joy, but "joys"! Now, while this includes the wonderful anticipated joys of heaven, it most certainly would involve the joys we have in this life. You might ask, show me the SCRIPTURES that state this! OK. Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, Whose hope is in Jehovah his God: (Psa.146:5); He that giveth heed unto the word shall find good; And whoso trusteth in Jehovah, happy is he. (Prov.16:20); we call them blessed that endured: ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity, and merciful. (James 5:11); If ye are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed [are ye]; because the [Spirit] of glory and the Spirit of God resteth upon you. (1Pet.4:14). Now, that we have those before us what about John 13:17--"If ye know these things, blessed are ye if ye do them.". Knowledge is extremely important, but knowledge without the proper application is useless! Jesus even had fun in spite of the fact that He was in subjection to His parents.

Yes, Jesus had fun; and He desires that we have fun. But, He is also concerned that we have "good clean fun," He has even given us rules to go by to judge the type of fun which we are to have, such as 1Thess.5:22; Rom.12:2. In effect, Jesus has said to us,"Have fun, enjoy life, have a good time; but make sure that you don't do it Satan's way, for this will kill the real and the eternal joy!