

What Do WE Know About Jesus? (11)

Jesus and Attitudes

Our "Attitudes" are extremely important, they are the first attribute of our character that others use as a rule to judge our life. We want to keep in mind that Jesus was a man and therefore, we can look at His attitudes as the pattern for ours!

Look at Philippians 2:3-11 {doing} nothing through faction or through vainglory, but in lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself; (4) not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others. (5) Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; (8) and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient {even} unto death, yea, the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him the name which is above every name; (10) that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of {things} in heaven and {things} on earth and {things} under the earth, (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. First notice verses 7&8; "in the likeness of men", and "in fashion as a man". Jesus was a man just like us! Also, notice, that God did not force all this upon Jesus. Is said, He "emptied himself" and "humbled himself". Whatever these verses teach, Jesus willingly did it, as a man! If He did, we can! Now, let us see His Attitudes.

First let us look at His attitude towards His heavenly Father. Jesus deliberately and willingly left a position being equaled with God, to come to this earth to be the example and sacrifice for each of us. What does this show about His attitude toward His heavenly Father? Would He now be second class? Would the Father turn on Him and forget the former relationship? What would Jesus gain or lose? Do you see the point? This decision showed that Jesus fully, and without reservation, trusted His heavenly Father. Remember what Jesus prayed shortly before His crucifixion "thy will be done" (MT. 26:42) in the Garden. Even while on the Cross He prayed, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit" (Lk.23:46), and this just before He died. Can we see His never-dying trust in

God, His Father? Do we have that kind of trust in our heavenly Father? Jesus did, and He was a man just like you and I!

In the last bulletin we noticed how Jesus prayed. Why, would Jesus pray so often and so long, unless He had complete confidence that the Father would answer His prayers. BUT, remember that Jesus did not pray selfish nor self-centered prayers. His prayers came from a heart whose first desire was to please His heavenly Father. Let us go back to His childhood to see a twelve-year-old boy saying to His mother, "I must be about my Father's business? (Lk.2:49-KJV). Do you see what He thought of His heavenly Father? Should not a twelve-year-old today, even a teenager, be able to do the same thing? Again, during His public ministry, He said, "the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." (Jn. 12:49). And in the next verse He said, "even as the Father hath said unto me, so I speak." You see, Jesus would not say that which His Father would not approve. What does this say for His attitude toward God? Once more, let us notice what He said to His Father shortly before His crucifixion, "I glorified thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given me to do." (Jn.17:4). So numerous are the examples of Jesus demonstrating His attitudes toward His heavenly Father that we are hard pressed to decided just which ones to consider. Jesus did this as a man! Are we any less a man than Jesus? He Did! We can! The secret is obedience which requires effort on our part!