

# The Jesus You Never Knew

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction: 2Cor. 10:12

- A. It is human nature to define God by measuring Him against ourselves. So many people choose to see Jesus as:
  - 1. Meek, weak, and mild,
    - a. He may have at times chosen to be meek, but He was never mild
    - b. Meek: Showing patience and humility; gentle.
  - 2. Timid and conservative,
  - 3. Peaceful and ordinary,
  - 4. Easily imposed on and submissive.
- B. Jesus:
  - 1. Was born into conflict, and remained in it His entire life.
    - a. Herod's decree to kill Him as a baby.
    - b. He fought with the Adversary in the desert region early in His ministry.
  - 2. Frequently debated with antagonistic religious groups.
  - 3. Called them snakes, adulterers, wicked, evil, perverts, sinful, and immature.
  - 4. Daily risked His life and reputation by teaching tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, and people that were shunned by society.
- C. He was not condemned to die on the cross because he was mild, peaceful and timid.
  - 1. He was sent there because He was so honest, direct, unapologetic, and bold that people became afraid of Him.
  - 2. Their lack of understanding led them to fight Him.
  - 3. What people don't understand, they fear. What they fear, they fight.
- D. It is foolish and dangerous to assume we know something about someone without understanding the facts.
  - 1. We miss the opportunity to grow from knowing them.
  - 2. We create dissonance with them subconsciously. (I don't like them! Why? I don't know; I just don't like them.)
  - 3. We rule out the chance that they could learn from us.
  - 4. We isolate ourselves.
- E. Jesus did the revolutionary.
  - 1. Turned over the tables of those who were using the Temple for gain.
  - 2. Endorsed the hated neighbors of the Jews, the Samaritans.
  - 3. Spent time with unclean lepers.
  - 4. Exposed the errors of contemporary religious thought and practice.
- F. Let me introduce you to the Biblical Jesus.

## I. LET ME INTRODUCE JESUS TO YOU

- A. Jesus faced temptation.
  - 1. Matt. 4:1-11 - The same primary temptations we face.

- a. Hunger - The need for the material things that sustain life (food clothes, shelter, jobs, comforts)
  - b. Security - The need for social structures that make life peaceful, pleasant, fulfilling (family, friends, love, safety, assurance)
  - c. Power - The desire for circumstances that give one control (money, authority, status)
- 2. Didn't the Adversary know?! - John 1:1-5
  - a. Jesus already had those things and more. Satan wasn't giving Him anything He didn't already possess in abundance.
- 3. Don't you know?! - Luke 18:29-30
  - a. You are just like Jesus. You already have more than what the Devil can offer you.
- B. Jesus faced rejection by His closest friends.
  - 1. Luke 22:31-34, 54-62
  - 2. What is the key to overcoming rejection?
    - a. Awareness - You will be rejected by loved ones and trusted friends, for wherever people are, there is a possibility for selfishness and jealousy.
      - 1) James 3:16; Psalm 41:9
    - b. Forgiveness - Eph. 4:32; Luke 23:33-34 - Gives power over them
  - 3. You are just like Jesus. You have dealt with rejection, and you have the same means at hand to get through it.
- C. Jesus faced mockery.
  - 1. John 19:1-6; 1Peter 2:21-23; Rom. 12:17-21
  - 2. You are just like Jesus. You have been the object of mockery and have the same means at hand to deal with it.
- D. Jesus faced debilitating sorrow.
  - 1. Matt 26:36-38; Luke 22:42-44 - God's answer to Jesus' prayer was not to remove the cup, but to send Him the strength to drink it.
    - a. 1Cor. 10:13 - God has promised a way through, not a way out
  - 2. You are just like Jesus. You have been hurt in the crucible of sorrow, and you have the same means of getting through it.
- E. Jesus was hated for no good reason
  - 1. John 15:18-25, 16:25-27
  - 2. You are just like Jesus. You have experienced hatred for no good cause. You have the same means of dealing with it.

#### Conclusion:

- A. We do not say that the Jesus of scripture is a lot like you. We say that you can be a lot like Jesus.
  - 1. Get to know the Jesus of scripture. He is someone with whom you can identify. He is someone whom you can grow to be like.