

Making Jesus Sigh

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Mark 8:10-13

1. Have we ever considered the Lord's reaction to our own behavior?
 - a. When we shrink back from trusting Him?
 - b. When we make excuses for not following Him as we should?

I. THE PHARISEES CONSTANTLY DEMANDED JESUS PROVE HIMSELF

A. They had challenged Jesus before - Mark 2:6-7, 16, 3:22, 7:1-2

1. They were joined by the Sadducees - Matt. 16:1

B. They demanded a sign different from Joshua - Joshua 10:12-14

1. Had the Pharisees not seen and heard of the many miracles?
2. Joshua needed help; the Pharisees wanted to trap Jesus
3. Gideon called for signs to confirm that he was truly called of God to lead Israel - Judges 6:14-21
4. The Pharisees were hoping to trap Jesus to discredit Him before the people

II. JESUS SIGHED DEEPLY IN HIS SPIRIT

A. Mark 8:12

1. "The anguish which Jesus experienced came from deep down inside him. Here the word 'spirit' is used in a sense not much different from heart or inner being." (Hendriksen)
2. "Or having deeply groaned -- so the word *αναστεναξα* properly means. He was exceedingly affected at their obstinacy and hardness of heart." (Clarke)

B. Similar responses on other occasions

1. Grieved by the hardness of their hearts - Mark 3:4-6
 - a. When men make rules in religion that cause harm
2. Sighed as He healed the deaf mute - Mark 7:31-37
 - a. When their interest in religion focuses only on the exciting
3. Groaned in His spirit seeing the grief of others - John 11:35-42
 - a. When believers do not have complete faith and trust
4. Wept over the city of Jerusalem - Luke 19:41-44
 - a. When people take for granted God's blessings and care

C. Because of their hard hearts, no sign would be given except His resurrection

1. Matt. 16:1-4

III. WE MAKE JESUS SIGH DEEPLY

A. Jesus observes our behavior

1. As He observed the behavior of Saul of Tarsus - Acts 9:5
2. As He observed the churches of Asia
 - a. He knew their works - Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19, 3:1, 8, 15

B. We make Jesus sigh deeply

1. When we refuse to obey His gospel, time after time - Matt. 11:28-30
2. When our conduct differs little from the world - Matt. 5:20
3. When our love is no different than that of sinners - Matt. 5:44-46
4. When the kingdom of God is not our priority in life - Matt. 6:33
5. When troubles move us to cop out - Matt. 13:20-21
 - a. Got an issue? Get a tissue.
6. When anxiety or materialism makes us unfruitful - Matt. 13:22
7. When discouragement leads us to abandon prayer - Luke 18:1
8. When human traditions displace the commands of God - Mark 7:7, 9
9. When divisiveness defeats His prayer for unity - John 17:20-21
10. When love of the world replaces love for His Father - 1John 2:15-17
11. When we make excuses - Luke 14:15-24
 - a. "I can't come to worship God today. But I'll be at work tomorrow."
 - b. "I can't come to Bible study tonight, but I went out to eat last night."
 - c. I tend to sigh deeply when I hear these excuses, too.

Conclusion:

- A. From the Savior's sigh, we learn that Jesus cared deeply for those He was willing to heal (the deaf mute) and for those He was willing to save (Pharisees)
- B. In like fashion, Jesus is ready to save us from our sins and heal us of our souls' diseases
- C. How will Jesus react to our response to Him? Will it be with great joy, or a deep sigh in His spirit?