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Go and make disciples!

E-votional 115

Holiness, Righteousness, Justice, Judgement

John 7:6-9

Then Jesus said to them, "My time has not yet come, but your time is always ready. The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil. You go up to this feast. I am not yet going up to this feast, for My time has not yet fully come." When He had said these things to them, He remained in Galilee.

Think about this for a second. For the time before it was appointed for Christ to be manifested people were allowed to pretty much, apart from the Jews, do what pleased them and for the most part, got away with it (Acts 17:30). Then we have the predestined time for Him to appear and call everyone everywhere to repent. Of this Jesus spoke of Himself from the chosen passage,

"The world cannot hate you, but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil."

So, in complete faithfulness, Jesus reproved the world and specifically His own religious people for living in ignorance of the Father's will.

I think today if we were, to be honest with ourselves and each other, we would have to admit that a Jesus who calls out evil is probably far from reach in our own theological construct. What I mean is that we have in our imagination a Jesus who is as cuddly as a teddy bear and would never ruffle anyone's feathers. yet what He is saying here is that the reason the world hates Him is that He exposes and testifies against it that what it does is evil.

Now, put yourself on the receiving end of this testimony to give greater illumination to the honesty the previous paragraph was mentioning. If Jesus came to you and said that all of your traditions and practices were evil, would you also hate Him? Also, on another note, if a dear brother or sister came to you individually or maybe to your church and testified that some of the things

you do or practice were actually wrong or evil, would you hate that brother or sister?

This line of questioning is important because as mentioned earlier I really believe if we were honest with ourselves we might have a vision of Jesus that is only cuddly like a teddy bear. I said only, because, we have to face the reality that God is holy, and is against every form of evil all the while being kind and compassionate and merciful and ready to forgive.

The passage of Scripture from Acts 17:30 states this,

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent."

So, before the time appointed for the revelation of Christ people pretty much lived in complete ignorance of God. Then when He came Scripture said, *"but now commands all men everywhere to repent."*

Wow! This is deep!

Let's be clear here, Jesus is very kind, gentle, and compassionate. But there is a caveat. He shows forth those attributes to the humble who receive His testimony, even if that testimony calls out the evil of their deeds. Scripture also states in both new and old testaments that God resists the proud.

To illustrate how He would resist the proud, look at John 2:15,

"When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables."

I could go on and on, but you get the point. On many other occasions Jesus was actually very sharp with many of the religious people and effectively opposed greatly their doctrines and traditions. But, as I said earlier, yet again, if we were, to be honest with ourselves and each other, we would have to admit that a Jesus who calls out evil in this manner is probably far from reach in our own theological construct.

Would we receive Jesus or any of His disciples today if they acted, maybe like Jesus with the money changers in John 2:15?

This is a probing question and one with a serious point.

Before I close out with the point read Acts 13 :10,

and said, "O full of all deceit and all fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease perverting the straight ways of the Lord?"

This, in context, was the response of the Apostle Paul when a false teacher tried to discourage the proconsul away from the faith.

Next in verse 11 Paul moves even further to place a judgement on this man when he said this,

And now, indeed, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you shall be blind, not seeing the sun for a time."

This brothers and sisters is a sharp contrast to the Christ-likeness that I learned to understand in today's version of Christianity. Please don't get me wrong and also pray for discernment because this is not an exact formula for how to reprove in every circumstance. I also believe disciples should not be running around trying to mame every form of evil they see. In other words, we need to be absolutely sure that we are walking in the Spirit in this and not some theological formula to be applied across the board.

The main focal point here is that the early church hated sin and all manner of evil. If you don't believe me read Acts 5 about Ananias and Sapphira.

Also, they were bolder than we are today in the defense and proclamation of the Gospel.

Brothers and sisters, my heart truly aches, when I see such a false gospel being not only proclaimed but lived out. We have grown so numb to sin that we allow every form of it in the church and have been falsely taught that it is wrong to judge sin in it.

Listen, the wages of sin are in fact death and separation from God. I mean, how can we not allow Jesus or any of His true disciples today to challenge us in any way to reveal ways we may be living in ignorance of His will.

On top of this, Jesus would not have needed to go to the cross and pay the penalty for sin if after He paid it we were just allowed to go on sinning.

Church, we need to come back to the full realization that God is holy and He does indeed resist the proud today even sharply and with severe judgment. Yet at the same time if you are willing and humble and receive His corrections there is a measure of grace so amazing and filled with love that will wash away any sin and the judgment thereof.

God's grace is free and available to any that are willing. His purpose for humanity is that they all receive of this free gift. Yet He is still God and He is holy, righteous, and just and hates sin and all manner of evil and testifies to the world that its ways are evil and repentance is mandatory.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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