

JESUS WALKED IN LOVE

July 17, 2024

We saw how Jesus was intimate with His heavenly Father. Jesus knew that the Father loved him! I have noticed that children who grow up with parents that love and affirm them do better in life, for they have more faith and confidence to live successfully. Jesus grew up with loving and godly earthly parents in Joseph and Mary.

In Bible times, a Jewish woman, upon finding herself with child (pregnant), would go away for the first three months of her pregnancy and go to the home of a relative so that she could be undisturbed as she quieted herself before the Lord. They believed that during those three months the child's spirit was being formed. Even before birth, children can sense and respond to things in their spirits. This may explain why Mary went to visit Elizabeth after she was visited by the angel concerning the miraculous virgin birth to come. - Luke 1:35-45, 56. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and would have the holy and precious blood of God to flow through him. - Acts 20:20, Hebrews 10:29, 1 Peter 1:19. He would be born without a sin nature, unlike all other human beings. Mary received assurance from the angel to allay any fears she may have had about this awesome birth to come, for a child in the womb can pick up on fears from the mother.

Jesus lived his earthly life secure in God's love and was able to release it to others. He was fearless in the midst of severe opposition from religious leaders.

There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The man who fears is not made perfect in love. - 1 John 4:18

Jesus was perfect in love and was not afraid to touch lepers, associate with prostitutes and crooked tax collectors, and he was fearless to confront religious hypocrites and neither was he swayed by people's opinions. His first love was the Father and to be his faithful ambassador from heaven to this earth. The world would take notice.

Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You are not swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are, but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. - Mark 12:14

Jesus knew God's love deeply and trusted in it, as did John, who came to be known as the apostle of love.

And we know (understand, recognize, are conscious of, by observation and by experience) and believe (adhere to and put faith in and rely on) the love God cherishes for us. - 1 John 4:16 Amplified

Jesus was despised and rejected by men - Isaiah 53:3, Mark 8:31.

- Called a bastard - Jewish law saw him as illegitimate and born of an adulterous relationship. Illegitimate children were not allowed to enter the congregation of the Lord in ancient Israel - Mark 6:3, Deuteronomy 23:2
- Called 'demon possessed and raving mad' - John 10:20
- His hometown of Nazareth was scorned - John 1:46
- Misunderstood and ridiculed by foes and even his own family!* - Mark 3:20-22

* His brothers were not believers in him yet - John 7:5

- All of his disciples deserted him after his arrest - John 16:32, Matthew 26:56

At the time of his crucifixion, he set an example for all believers to follow in his steps.

When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

- 1 Peter 2:21, 23 NIV

THE COMPASSION OF JESUS

Throughout the public ministry of Jesus, we often see this phrase used about him; **'He was moved with compassion'**. Compassion meant 'bowels moved within because of emotional and spiritual concern'. Here are several examples: Matt. 9:36, 14:14, 15:32, 20:34; Mark 1:41, 5:19, 6:34, 8:2, 9:22-25; Luke 7:13-15. Miracles (works of God) often followed this, for the scripture reminds us later that **'faith works through love'** - Galatians 5:6. Jesus also experienced temptations and trials, so he can relate to us.

For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a fellow feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation but One who has been tempted in every respect as we are, yet without sinning. - Hebrews 4:15 Amplified

Jesus was a Good Shepherd and knew that we are like sheep; needy, helpless, fearful and prone to wander. Notice the gentle tenderness prophesied by Isaiah regarding the coming Messiah (Jesus).

He tends his flock like a shepherd. He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. - Isaiah 40:11

A bruised reed he will not break and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. - Isaiah 42:3

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil because God was with him. - Acts 10:38

Power has proved to be dangerous to those who are not led by love.

Tyrants, dictators and others hungry for power to control others have been common throughout human history. Jesus did not let power go to his head unrestrained, it was tempered with his magnanimous heart of love for God and people. **Jesus did not use this power for himself** but allowed the Holy Spirit to bring help and hope to needy people. **Perfect love drives out all fear** and Jesus walked in that perfected love for he feared nothing and nobody - 1 John 4:18.

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, 'If you are willing, you can make me clean.' - Mark 1:40

The leper did not doubt that Jesus could heal him. He had probably heard reports from Galilean villages about the healing and delivering power of Jesus. However, he questioned whether Jesus was willing to use his power on his behalf. In other words, he **doubted the love of Jesus for him** as he must have felt unworthy of being healed. Leprosy was a very contagious skin disease which left lepers isolated and feeling rejected but Jesus was not afraid of leprosy.

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

- Mark 1:41-42

At the death of his friend Lazarus, Jesus was **'deeply moved in spirit'** and wept. His love moved him to action - John 11:33-39. Lazarus rose out of the grave!

Prayer: Jesus as I read through the gospel accounts of your life and ministry, open my eyes to see how you operated in the compassion of God. I need to know and rely on that same love. You are so powerful and demonstrated you could heal any disease, forgive the worst of sinners, and calm the fiercest storm. I praise you for doing all these things in love. I give you my fears and receive the fullness of your love. Amen.

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