

# Just Like Jesus

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

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 weak and mild
    - b. Meek: Showing patience and humility; gentle
  - 2. Or, timid and conservative
  - 3. Or, peaceful and ordinary
  - 4. Or, easily imposed on and submissive
- B. Jesus was:
  - 1. Born into conflict, and remained in it for His entire life.
    - a. Herod's decree to kill Him as a baby
    - b. He fought with the Adversary in the desert early in His ministry
  - 2. He frequently debated with antagonistic religious groups. He called them "snakes, adulterers, wicked, evil, perverts, sinful, immature."
  - 3. He daily risked His life and reputation by teaching tax collectors, prostitutes, lepers, and people that were shunned by orthodox 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 again Him.
  - 3. What people don't understand, they fear. What they fear, they fight.
- D. 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
- E. Do You Know My Jesus? (hymn 470)
  - 1. "Knowing God is crucially important for living our lives. Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through this life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you." (J.I. Packer)

## I. PERMIT ME TO INTRODUCE JESUS TO YOU

- A. Jesus faced powerful 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 Adversary can offer you, just like Jesus.
- B. Jesus faced rejection by His closest friends - Luke 22:31-34, 54-62
  - 1. 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 - James 3:16; Psalm 41:9
    - b. Forgiveness - Eph. 4:32; Luke 23:33-34 - Gives power over them
  - 2. You are just like Jesus. You have dealt with rejection and you have the same means at hand to get through it, just like Jesus.
- C. Jesus faced mockery from a multitude
  - 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, just like Jesus.
  - 3. "When I understand that everything happening to me is to make me more Christ like, it resolves a great deal of anxiety. (A.W. Tozer)
- 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, just like Jesus.
- 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, just like Jesus.

Conclusion:

- A. I am not suggesting that the Jesus of scripture is a lot like you. I am stating that you can be a lot like the Jesus of scripture.
  - 1. Get to know the Jesus of scripture. He is someone with Whom you can identify. He is someone Who you can grow to be like.
- B. "Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to another standard to which each one must individually bow. So one hundred worshipers met together, each one looking away to Christ, are in heart nearer to each other than they could possibly be, were they to become 'unity' conscious and turn their eyes away from God to strive for closer fellowship." (A.W. Tozer, The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine)