



August 21, 2009

Dear Friends:

WHO WOULD JESUS THUMP?

This week while talking with Tyler about the context of a school memory verse, I found myself explaining how the religious people were the ones who kept knocking their brains out to criticize and trap Jesus. Jesus was in a place that should have furnished a safe, loving embrace but not there. Blindly using the law and their DOA rituals as their measuring stick, the Pious Punks were more concerned with their plans, privileges and procedures, and purposely put up one road block after another to obstruct the mission of the Messiah.

Peter and John, in Acts 3, faced a similar reception when the lame man danced his way into the meeting, wrecking their devout protocol-laden, bore-fest. The dear man's miracle healing didn't matter; Peter and John hadn't played by their rules and, without "passing go", were immediately carted off to the pokey, in the name of "protecting the faith". Some of you can bite your tongues now.

Relationship with the Father is a special warm thing; He thinks so too! That's why He blew His divine breath into some mud to form us. The Creator of the Universe wanted fellowship and relationship but it seems the religion network just loves to muddy things back up.

On top of that, on the outside, we have to deal with the ever growing media assaults and encouraged political derision targeted at those who love the Message of Christ. The climate is intentionally mean and it has gone beyond amusing and is obviously not an accident. The word, pathetic, should come to mind as we realize the genuine God walk and our hallowed message of faith and hope is the preferred fire hydrant of choice to the Hounds of Hell.

In one recent news segment, referring to the frenzied desire to emulate the patterns of Cuba and Europe in charting our National and Individual health care futures, the typical, cynically loaded question was posed, "What Would Jesus Do?" They thought, "Oh, we got you now!"

Naturally they didn't interview anybody with a thimble full of sense or credibility. Hundreds of worthy smart/spiritual people could have eloquently spoken but they love to snag some clerical kook who got fried at Woodstock or espouses a deep-seated social agenda served in a mock compassion concoction. On this night, my spokesman, void of the most basic spiritual fundamentals, incapable of displaying a twinge of Children's Church wisdom, opined some socialistic mumbo jumbo with a few, out of context, cymbal clanging scriptures mangled in. I said to the TV, "Oh shut up". I think I've had enough of those wispy imbeciles talking for me. I know what He would have done; Jesus would have thrown a sandal at the TV or resorted back to the old faithful standby, table flipping.

I realize it is all part of the same agenda/spirit that tried to trip up Jesus, Peter and John. Then and now, anything is fair game as long as the Gospel Juggernaut gets slowed down. Hell will attempt to use those who hide behind a facade of faith and Slewfoot knows he has the ever willing contingent assembled on the outside.

A lot is coming at us and yet He still expects us to walk circumspectly through this circus.

Late last week, Linda and I were working on some radio messages when we found ourselves walking, line by line, in Psalm 15. It is just five verses but each statement seemed loaded. As we zoomed in, we found a point by point spotlight on the things that will disqualify those who ignore the truths while hiding in the church bushes or to those on the outside who openly demean the Word. Either way, you got a mess.

Verse one features two important questions regarding the qualification of Kingdom service. Then, those questions are answered with ten specific statements. This week, I questioned a few friends regarding the ten specifics and then began to write some of the thoughts. They are sobering and extraordinary truths that will protect us and

keep us strong from opposition inside or outside the walls. See if you can read some of the lines without a face or two appearing on the HD flat screen of your mind...

PSALM 15 (NLT)

- 1 Who may worship in your sanctuary, Lord?
Who may enter your presence on your holy hill?
- 2 Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right
(not stealing influence, equipment, materials, money or misusing credit cards),
speaking the truth from sincere hearts
(not fake pandering, calculating or grand standing).
- 3 Those who refuse to slander others
(prayerfully "sharing" or lap dog reporting about those not in their circle)
or harm their neighbors
(harming reputations, intentional poisoning and allowance of misinformation),
or speak evil of their friends
(if they do not fall into line).
- 4 Those who despise persistent sinners
(not rewarding with fellowship and blessing),
and honor the faithful followers of the LORD
(those who have stood faithful without fanfare or manipulation),
and who keep their promises even when it hurts
(even when squeezed, threatened and isolated).
- 5 Those who lend money without charging interest
(not just money, breaking from the normal, "you owe me" mode of operation,
no strings attached relationships),
and who cannot be bribed to lie about the innocent
(when it seems easy, fun and acceptable).
Such people
(those who will respect and practice these things)
will stand firm forever!

You got that? That is a big time promise! We are in this thing FOREVER!

Don't bow to the temporary, corrupt or the convenient. Furthermore, we cannot let the "out of balance spiritual" or the "blatantly secular" take us from the great things that are prepared for us. As far as the others, when He's had enough, He'll just crank up His giant thumb and forefinger and give them a big noggin thump as He returns. Thus, the real Big Bang Theory.

So, keep strong, keep faithful, keep rejoicing. As I like to sing, "I've Got A Feeling, Everything's Gonna Be All-right!"

Michael

