

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ MARCH 2018 ❖

Believers Who Attempted to Stone Jesus

They had believed Him, until ...

Jesus was saying to those Jews **who had believed Him**, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

John 8:31-32

Jesus said "the truth will make you free." They took exception to this statement, saying, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?" As the exchange progresses the more they become antagonistic.

(READ THE FULL EXCHANGE IN VERSES 33-58.)

HIGHLIGHTS

THEY SAY

JESUS ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| :33 we have never been enslaved. | :34 If you sin, you are enslaved |
| :39 Abraham is our father | :44 the devil is your father |
| :48 you are the one with a demon | :49 No, I honor my Father |
| :52 you lie about not dying; Abraham died | :54 Abraham rejoiced to see My day |
| :57 you couldn't have seen Abraham | :58 I AM before Abraham was |

They believed, but took exception to what He said about Himself.

And they refused to believe what He said about them!

Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

John 8:59

If One Doesn't Like the Message, Attack the Messenger

The twelve Apostles, Steven, Paul, and many others were attacked because the hearers didn't like their message. Others have suffered a similar fate down through the ages, and it continues today. The truths contained in the New Testament are what some hate, and they attacked the messengers. Not always by stoning, but by any and all means of opposing the spread of the gospel.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

1 Peter 4:12-14

Paradoxes in the New Testament

Paradox: A seemingly contradictory statement that may nonetheless be true.



More Blessed to Give than Receive

Acts 20:35

"In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Give Generously and Yet Not Please

Matthew 6:2

"So when you give to the poor, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be honored by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full."

Give All Possessions, Yet Profit Nothing

1 Corinthians 13:3

And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

To Die Is Gain

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Gain in This Life Is Rubbish

Philippians 3:8

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ.

Gain Approval Through Suffering

Hebrews 11:37-39

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground. And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised.

Gain Life, Lose It—Lose It, Gain It

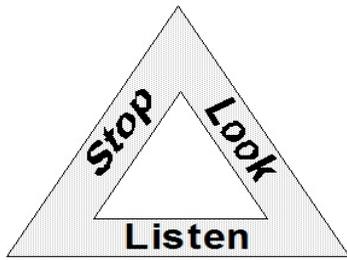
Luke 9:24-25

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself?"

Cheerful While Enduring Trials

James 1:2-4

Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



Good Advice

This vintage railroad crossing sign was posted at unprotected crossings in years past (and may still be found in some rural areas).

◆ ◆ ◆ STOP

Before proceeding determine if it is safe. Better to avoid problems than to have to clean up the mess afterwards. Will proceeding put you in harms way? Will you be overtaken in a fault?

The naive believes everything, but the prudent man considers his steps.

Proverbs 14:15

LOOK

Observe what is around you. Be aware of what's coming your way. Will proceeding put you in a spiritually inhospitable surrounding?

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life.

Proverbs 16:17

LISTEN

Do you hear any sounds of impending danger? Is your conscience warning you? Are others trying to tell you that it is not best to proceed?

Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge.

Proverbs 22:17

Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days.

Proverbs 19:20

Singing with the Understanding . . .



Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16

Love One Another

(The Admonition)

Angry words! O let them never,
From the tongue unbridled slip,
May the heart's best impulse ever,
Check them ere they soil the lip.

(The Reason to Love)

Love is much too pure and holy,
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly,
Thus to desolate and mar.

(The Hurt That Is Done)

Angry words are lightly spoken,
Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken,
By a single angry word.

(The Solution)

Love one another thus saith the Savior,
Children obey the Father's blest command,
Love each other, love each other,
'Tis the Father's blest command.



Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 Peter 1:22



Ponder This

Church Attendance

A member's habitual or frequent attendance of congregational assemblies is usually a good indicator of faithfulness. But not always. It can be:

feigned

(hypocritical; appearing righteous)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation...Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence."

Matthew 23:14, 25

forced

(going through the motions to satisfy perceived obligations)

"You also say, 'My, how tiresome it is!' And you disdainfully sniff at it," says the Lord of hosts; "and you bring what was taken by robbery and what is lame or sick; so you bring the offering! Should I receive that from your hand?" says the Lord.

Malachi 1:13

farce

(attempting to offset living like the devil by attending regularly)

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe the mint and dill and cummin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others."

Matthew 23:23

THE MAJORITY

Many Americans are decidedly used to the idea of the majority being right. How often do we hear "Everybody thinks..." or "The majority feel..." or "Only a few disagree."

These statements are made in a vain attempt to establish a thought or action as being correct. However, history and the Bible tell us otherwise:

- The majority perished in the flood. Genesis 6:13, 1Peter 3:20
- The majority caused the Israelites to wander 40 years in the wilderness. Ten spies out of twelve gave an evil report. Numbers 13:30-32
- It was the multitude that clamored for the crucifixion of Jesus. Mark 15:14-15
- The majority of Israelites on the day of Pentecost did not obey the gospel (Three thousand is far from being a majority.) Acts 2:41
- The majority of those in Ephesus were in an uproar over what Paul the Apostle had done. Acts 19:32
- The majority will choose the broad way that leads to destruction. *"Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it."* Matthew 7:13-14



It is a sad commentary of humanity when what is morally right is decided by the majority.

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Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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