

## Was Jesus Rude And Sometimes Mean?

### Introduction.

- I. This lesson will explore the question, “Was Jesus rude and sometimes mean?”
- II. Once again this sounds like a very strange question to ask of One who went about doing good (Acts 10:38), and died that we might be saved. (1 Cor. 15:3; Eph. 1:7).
  - A. It is not strange to hear such words from His enemies.
    1. His enemies, then and now, attack Him and belittle Him in countless ways.
    2. They have accused Him of being a bastard, a homosexual, an imposter, a liar and a blasphemer just to name a few charges.
  - B. What is strange to hear is His disciples also concluding Jesus was rude and sometimes mean.
    1. Most of His disciples view Jesus as loving, kind, caring, sacrificial, wise and all-powerful Son of God.
    2. But when reading the gospels they find some shocking statements and events that shock many [even believers] and sometimes even cause them to doubt their high conception of Jesus.
    3. Some have their faith weakened or destroyed by reading some of the things Jesus said and did.

### I. Two Questions By A Scribe And A Disciple

MAT 8:18 Now when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He gave orders to depart to the other side.

MAT 8:19 And **a certain scribe** came and said to Him, "Teacher, I will follow You wherever You go."

MAT 8:20 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

MAT 8:21 And **another of the disciples** said to Him, "Lord, permit me first to go and bury my father."

MAT 8:22 But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me; and allow the dead to bury their own dead."

- A. A scribe (a teacher) of the Mosaical Law once said to Jesus, “Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.”
  1. Jesus replied, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”
  2. Jesus does not seem to **directly** respond to this statement or its sincerity.
  3. Jesus was letting the scribe know that following Him [the Messiah, the King] was not easy.
  4. It is very possible that Jesus knew that the scribe had the wrong concept of discipleship, and needed to know discipleship was demanding. (Matt. 16:24; Lk. 14:26,27).

B. "Another of the disciples said to Him, Lord, first let me go and bury my father."

• The words "another of the disciples" implies the scribe was a disciple.

1. Jesus replied, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead"

2. Jesus' response cannot be taken literally,

a. The literal dead cannot bury anyone.

b. Jesus is speaking of those spiritually dead burying the physical dead.

c. Nothing is a valid excuse for not following Him.

d. Honoring one's father would normally permit and require burial of ones father, but not if it was an excuse for not following Jesus.

e. **Keep in mind Jesus knew even the thoughts of men.** (Matt. 9:4).

C. **How some response to this.**

1. Some are shocked and very disappointed by these replies of Jesus.

2. They believe Jesus should have answered in a more loving and gentler way.

3. Some think it would be fine for Jesus to be critical of His critics and to be harsh with the Pharisees and Sadducees who were opposing Him and who were so hypercritical and sinful.

D. It is important that we recognize this language had a purpose.

1. Jesus was teaching some vital spiritual lessons.

2. He taught nothing must come before our obedience to Him.

3. He was teaching to follow Him demands great sacrifices.

a. He basically had nothing. (Matt. 8:20).

MAT 8:20 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

b. Those who would follow Him need to know that great sacrifices will have to be made, and the Christian life is not an easy life.

## II. Other Examples

A. Jesus taught this parable. (Matt. 15:10,11).

MAT 15:10 And after He called the multitude to Him, He said to them, "Hear, and understand.

MAT 15:11 "Not what enters into the mouth defiles the man, but what proceeds out of the mouth, this defiles the man."

B. After this parable, the disciples told Jesus the Pharisees had been offended by His answer and asked for an

explanation,. (Matt. 15:12,15).

MAT 15:12 Then the disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"

MAT 15:15 And Peter answered and said to Him, "**Explain the parable to us.**"

C. Jesus answered perhaps harshly, "Are you still lacking in understanding also? (Matt. 15:16).

1. Jesus proceeded to explain the parable. (Matt. 15:17-20)..

MAT 15:17 "**Do you not understand** that everything that goes into the mouth passes into the stomach, and is eliminated?

MAT 15:18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.

MAT 15:19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

MAT 15:20 "These are the things which defile the man; but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile the man."

2. One might interpret Jesus' response as rude, but this is confuse the teaching techniques of Jesus with rudeness. Jesus had asked "**Do you not understand?**"
3. To question one's understanding is not within itself rude.
4. Teachers must often question and challenge the understanding of students.

### III. His Family

A . Some believe Jesus appears to dishonor His own family. (Matt. 12:46-50).

MAT 12:46 While He was still speaking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him.

MAT 12:47 And someone said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You."

MAT 12:48 But He answered the one who was telling Him and said, "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?"

MAT 12:49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, "Behold, My mother and My brothers!

MAT 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."

#### B. Brief look at the account

1. Someone tells Jesus that His mother and brothers are standing outside and waiting to see Him.
2. He answered, "Who is my mother, and who are My brothers?"
3. He then proceeds to affirm that His true family is "whoever does the will of my Father who in heaven."
  - a. Some see the point Jesus is making about obedience.
    - 1) Obedience to God makes us the family of God.
    - 2) The true mother and brothers and sisters of Christ are those who do the will of the Father in heaven.
    - 3) Being a fleshy mother, or brother, or sister to Jesus will not save.
    - 4) Doing the will of God is what saves. (Matt. 7:21).

- b. But some are upset with Jesus suggesting He was ignoring His mother and brothers and sisters.
- c. There is no evidence Jesus ignored His family or that He was ever critical of them.
  - 1) His brothers became believers (Acts 1:12-14), but He did not attack them for their unbelief. (Jn. 7:5).
  - 2) He provided for the care of His mother (Jn.19:26,27), and she was numbered with the believers. (Acts 1:12-14).

### III. The Canaanite Woman (Matt. 15:21-28).

MAT 15:21 And Jesus went away from there, and withdrew into the district of Tyre and Sidon.

MAT 15:22 And behold, a Canaanite woman came out from that region, and began to cry out, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is cruelly demon-possessed."

MAT 15:23 **But He did not answer her a word.** And His disciples came to Him and kept asking Him, saying, "Send her away, for she is shouting out after us."

MAT 15:24 But He answered and said, "**I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**"

MAT 15:25 But she came and began to bow down before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!"

MAT 15:26 And He answered and said, "**It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs.**"

MAT 15:27 But she said, "Yes, Lord; but even the dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from their masters' table."

MAT 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

- A. This woman is respectful of Jesus recognizing Him as “the Son of David” and begs Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter.
  - 1. She recognized Jesus was the illustrious descendant of David. - the Messiah.
  - 2. She believed with all her heart that Jesus could heal her “demon-possessed” daughter.

### B. Jesus’ Response

- 1. It is pointed out “He did not answer her a word.” (Matt. 15:23).
  - a. The disciples were annoyed and wanted Jesus to send her away. (Matt. 15:23).
  - b. They did not have any pity for her and her demon-possessed daughter.
    - 1) They were not to preach to the Gentiles nor to do miracles among them.
    - 2) They were not anxious for Jesus to become involved with a Gentile woman.
- 2. Jesus said, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matt. 15:24).
  - a. He spent most of His life speaking to the Jews, and giving them the opportunity of salvation.
  - b. The twelve apostles and the seventy did the same. (Matt. 10:5, 6; Lk. 10:1-17).

MAT 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them, saying, "Do not go in the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter any city of the Samaritans;

MAT 10:6 but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

- c. It was about 6 or 7 years after the church began before the apostles began preaching to Gentiles. (Acts 10:34, 35).
  - d. Jesus did teach that the gospel was to be preached to all men. (Mk. 16:15; Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 1:8).
3. Later Jesus responded to her saying, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs."
- a. "Children" likely is a reference to the Jews who were the recipients of many great blessings from God.
  - b. It is not good to take the blessings of the Jews and give them to a Gentile or Gentiles.
  - c.. The Jews considered Gentiles "dogs" because of their ignorance, impurity and idolatry.
4. This woman answered, "Yes, Lord; but even the [little] dogs feed on the crumbs which fall from the masters' table."
- a. The word "dogs" comes from the Greek "kunarion" [koo nar, ee on] meaning "little dogs."
  - b. She did not take offense at the words of Jesus, but showed great determination and humility.
- C. Some get very upset with Jesus because He was so harsh and seemingly so rude with this woman.
- 1. **They fail to see Jesus used this harsh language to test her faith**, and to show others what great faith a Gentile could have.
  - 2. Her faith and her humility should shame most.
  - 3. Jesus said of her "your faith is great." (Matt. 15:28).

MAT 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once

- a. He showed His great love by healing her daughter.
  - b. Jesus was healed "at once."
  - c. **This healing [exorcism] was not the action of a mean, insensitive, harsh person.**
  - d. It was an act of kindness that would be criticized by the Jewish leaders and perhaps others.
4. Jesus only identified two people with "great faith."
- a. The Roman centurion. (Matt. 8:5, 10)
  - b. This Canaanite woman (Matt.15:28).

### III. **The Parables Of Jesus** (Matt. 13:10-17).

MAT 13:10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

MAT 13:11 And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

MAT 13:12 "For whoever has, to him shall more be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have,

even what he has shall be taken away from him.

MAT 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

**MAT 13:14 "And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah [Isa. 6:9,10] is being fulfilled, which says, 'You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; And you will keep on seeing, but will not perceive;**

**MAT 13:15 For the heart of this people has become dull, And with their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes Lest they should see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I should heal them.'**

**MAT 13:16 "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.**

**MAT 13:17 "For truly I say to you, that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it; and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.**

A. Jesus most often spoke in parables.

1. He used common examples to teach great spiritual lessons.
2. Some have argued that Jesus does not always appear to want people to understand His parables.

B. Some believe He should have desperately tried to help people to understand He was Savior and not obscure the truth.

1. They fail to discern the meaning of these words.

MAT 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand

2. Those who were sincere would meditate on the parables and apply the spiritual meaning to their lives.
3. Those who were insincere and not interested in the truth would never go to that trouble.
4. The enemies of Christ heard His teachings and witnessed many of His miracles, but they became more and more hardened to Jesus and the will of the Father.

#### IV. Other Examples

A. Jesus using the designation "Woman"

##### 1. Mary his mother

JOH 2:4 And Jesus said to her, "**Woman**, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come."

JOH 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, "**Woman**, behold, your son!"

- a. The word "woman" as a part of Jesus' address seems rude by our standards.
- b. We would address our mother and other women by saying "Woman."
- c. It should be kept in mind that Jesus, far from being rude, was One who loved His mother, and provided for His at His death.

JOH 19:27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her into his own

household.

## 2. The Canaanite woman

MAT 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "**O woman**, your faith is great; be it done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed at once.

## 3. The Samaritan woman

JOH 4:21 Jesus said to her, "**Woman**, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father.

- a. It should not be overlooked that Jesus did what others would not do. (Jn. 4:9).
- b. Jesus taught this sinful woman and brought her to salvation..(Jn. 4:25,26).

JOH 4:25 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."

JOH 4:26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

- c. This woman, in turn, led many others to Jesus. (Jn. 4:29, 30, 39-42).

**JOH 4:29 "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"**

**JOH 4:30 They went out of the city, and were coming to Him.**

**JOH 4:39 And from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all the things that I have done."**

JOH 4:40 So when the Samaritans came to Him, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.

JOH 4:41 And many more believed because of His word;

JOH 4:42 and they were saying to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world."

## Conclusion.

- I. Jesus was neither mean or rude to those sincerely seeking the truth.
- II. He did not always use the teaching technique that we might use or think appropriate.
- III. He used a technique that would bring out the best in the sincere, and would cause the insincere not to pursue Him.
  - A. He was quite harsh with hypocrites. (Matt. 7:1-5).
  - B. Jesus could really be harsh with the Pharisees and scribes. (Matt. 23:1-28).
  - C. Jesus was not harsh with those truly seeking the truth.

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