

# *But Jesus Hid Himself*

Sunday AM, April 7, 2024

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**John 8:59** Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

- I. Their arguing and accusations progressed to hostility and hatred toward Jesus.
  - A. His gentle but plain rebukes had been met with increased contempt and hatred.
  - B. They are deceived about themselves, about who He is, and about God's attitude toward them and their standing before God.
  - C. In their minds they are not resisting or being contemptible toward God, but toward this man who says He is speaking for God.
  - D. It is a common thing for sinful people to feel justified in hating other men, while claiming to love and serve God.

**1 John 4:20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

- E. All who reject God and his righteousness do so by rejecting the messenger God sent to them.

**Hebrews 13:2** Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

- F. Angels are messengers from God; and a messenger has a message to deliver.
  - 1. So the meaning of this verse is that whatever messenger God sends into our lives is going to appear to us to be a man, and almost always IS a man.
  - 2. There is a great danger that we will do with the messenger what these blind Jews are doing, rejecting the message from God because they think the message is coming from the mind of another man and not God.
  - 3. The definition of the word "entertain" might surprise you:

## **Webster's 1828 Dictionary**

### **ENTERTA'IN,**

- 1. To receive into the house and treat with hospitality, either at the table only, or with lodging also.
- 2. To treat with conversation; to amuse or instruct by discourse; properly, to engage the attention and retain the company of one, by agreeable conversation, discourse or argument.
- 3. To keep in one's service; to maintain.
- 4. To keep, hold or maintain in the mind with favor; to reserve in the mind; to harbor; to cherish.
  - 4. So the Scripture is instructing us to receive and to keep the messenger God has sent to us, not to get rid of him like these people are trying to do.

- II. Once again, the fatal error of these Jews was not being willing to listen and to apply the Word of God to themselves.
  - A. Instead of considering the wonderful truths coming from the mouth of Jesus, they contended with Him, they disrespected Him, they slandered and accused Him.
  - B. Their contending with the Lord turned into hatred for Him, and hatred leads to the desire to kill Him.

- C. They wanted to silence Him, and to stop hearing the things He was saying.
- D. So He obliged them and hid himself from them, and walked right through the midst of them and the temple and “passed by.”
- E. So the first thing was that they couldn’t see or hear Him, even though He was still in the midst of them.
- F. The next thing was that He went out from them and passed by; He stopped talking to them, and was not found of them.
- G. That is a sad way to end up; how could it be a worse end?
- H. Now they would hear no more the words of life; never again would they wonder at “...the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth.”
- I. They were left with turmoil in their hearts and bitterness and the emptiness in their souls, and nowhere to turn from it all.
- J. They rejected God when they rejected what this “man” had tried to explain to them about who they were and who God is.
- K. Jesus had offered them the only way to have victory over death, but they loved their sin and themselves so much that they rejected the only hope that will ever be offered them.

III. This is what people still do with God and his message to man.

- A. The truth, plainly spoken, will have this same effect on most people still.
- B. Most are like these Jews and are hiding behind their religion, which is a personalized portfolio of what they have made up for themselves from the different ideas and practices they have picked up along their way.
- C. They are looking for affirmation of their own ways and ideas, and grow hostile quickly at any suggestion they could be wrong, or lacking in any area of their understanding or life.
- D. They are fully convinced that they are right in all matters and therefore closed to anything that does not sure up their deception about themselves.
- E. It is not common now for people to literally pick up stones to stone someone, but it is common for them to hate and try to destroy someone they disagree with.
- F. Beware, because the consequence of that is that the Lord hides himself and walks away from you.

**John 8:21** Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

- G. It is not because his mercy ran out, or his grace was insufficient, or that He was angry and could not be appeased; it is because their hearts were set and hardened and in his wisdom and understanding He knew that they would never turn from their hatred and opposition to Him.
- H. They made their choice, a right, with which He had created them, and so since they rejected Him, He left them alone.
- I. We better keep our distance from anyone who contends with God, his Word, his righteousness.
- J. We better crucify our pride and selfish tendencies, lest we end up like this blind Jews.
- K. We better take heed to the things Jesus said, and we better be listening for his voice in the voices of those He sends into our lives to help us on this journey.