

# Preaching Another Jesus

**Introduction.** In 2 Corinthians 11:1-4, Paul ironically appeals to the ready welcome they gave visitors who came proclaiming a message other than the gospel that they had embraced and that had brought them salvation. The Lord Jesus, in His character and work, is perfect. No Savior superior to him has been provided; none but He is necessary.

Today, there is “another Jesus” that is born out of the fertile imaginations of men and women who do not like nor want the real Jesus and prefer to make a Jesus in their own image, an idol of their own wants and desires. This Jesus is not necessarily an entirely different Jesus, but is a partial picture of Jesus that does not reveal all about Him. Telling a half truth about Jesus is telling a whole lie and preaching “another Jesus.”

## ***I. The Baby Jesus Without The Lord Jesus***

- A. The “baby Jesus” is a very popular Jesus.
  - 1. Many people are in love with Christmas and the holidays. They are attached to the memories of good times that are associated with that time of year.
  - 2. There is nothing wrong with having good memories, but some have made this false “holy day” their only contact with anything of a religious nature.
  - 3. Along with the holidays is the visit to the manger scene in displays, television, plays, and sermons. Many people may only be familiar with Luke 2:1-14.
  - 4. They pay homage to a Jesus that is always a plastic baby. He never speaks, He never acts, He never commands, He never demands, He remains silent and passive.
- B. But the baby without the Lord is “another Jesus.”
  - 1. The real Jesus did not remain in a manger in Bethlehem. The real Jesus was crucified in an agonizing death, was resurrected, ascended into Heaven where He now reigns as the supreme Lord (Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 17:14).
  - 2. The real Jesus speaks, commands, and demands obedience from us.
    - a) He has all power and commands us (Matthew 28:18-20).
    - b) God made Jesus Lord (Acts 2:36-38).
    - c) As Lord we must confess and obey him (Philippians 2:9-12).

## ***II. The Compassionate Jesus Without The Angry Jesus***

- A. Many have a picture of Jesus as compassionate, and the real Jesus was compassionate (Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 6:34; Luke 7:11-13).
- B. Some Christians feel that if one ever gets upset about some doctrinal error or sin, they are “not Christ-like.” False teachers often like to suggest this. Certainly if we are not compassionate, our religion is vain (1 John 3:17-18).
- C. But it is “another Jesus” that never has anger and righteous indignation.
  - 1. It was foretold that Jesus could be angered (Psalm 2:10-12), and He was angry (John 2:13-17; Mark 3:5).
  - 2. The real Jesus had righteous indignation, and became angry at wickedness, sin, and false teaching.
- D. Paul’s spirit was provoked or “aroused to anger” (Acts 17:16), and ours must be too (Psalm 26:5; 101:3; 139:21-22; Revelation 2:6).

### **III. The Tender Jesus Without The Tough Jesus**

- A. Many worship a sweet tender Jesus.
  - 1. Many times you will see Jesus portrayed with children in His lap, patting one on the head. It is true that Jesus loved children (Matthew 18:2-3; 19:13-14).
  - 2. This image of Jesus is a syrupy-sweet, positive-mental-attitude Jesus. This Jesus is never negative or gets tough.
- B. The real Jesus was tender, but He was also powerful and tough.
  - 1. The real Jesus used negative terms (Luke 13:3, 5; John 8:44).
  - 2. When questioned, the real Jesus spoke back strongly (Matthew 21:23-27).
  - 3. He was tough on error and its false teachers (Matthew 22:29).
  - 4. False teachers and false doctrine must be identified. Some brethren object to openly marking false teachers, but false teachers must be openly condemned and their influence destroyed, despite the criticism that inevitably comes.

### **IV. The Tolerant Jesus Without The Strict Jesus**

- A. Many view Jesus as tolerant and patient.
  - 1. Perhaps one of the most often-quoted sayings of Jesus is used to teach an uncritical tolerance (Matthew 7:1).
  - 2. Some quote Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees in condemning a "strict" observance of the law (Matthew 23:23).
  - 3. The real Jesus taught us tolerance and patience, but these passages are taken out of context and do not teach unquestioning acceptance.
- B. To present a tolerant Jesus that accepted anyone and anything is a false Jesus.
  - 1. Jesus was patient and tolerant, but He never compromised the truth; Jesus was strict with the truth (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23; John 14:6). He condemned the Pharisees for not following all of God's Law (Matthew 23:23).
  - 2. Jesus taught us to judge righteous judgment. Jesus did not want us to judge hypocritically, using a different standard on others than ourselves (John 7:24).

### **V. The Temporal Jesus Without The Spiritual Jesus**

- A. Many worship another Jesus which emphasizes earthly, temporal affairs.
  - 1. Some see Him as interested in reigning on Earth, while others stress that all Jesus wants to do is make people "feel better."
  - 2. This puts emphasis on the social gospel. In the social gospel, which caters to the outer man, Jesus gets lost or remade in the image of a social director, rather than a teacher and Savior of men.
- B. Jesus dealt with the physical, but His emphasis was on the spiritual and eternal.
  - 1. Jesus said that the spiritual came before the physical (Matthew 26:11).
  - 2. The real Jesus stopped feeding the crowd because His purpose was to show them the bread of life and all they wanted was food (John 6:26-27, 66).
  - 3. The apostles in the early church understood spiritual priorities (Acts 6:2).

### **VI. The Forgiving Jesus Without The Condemning Jesus**

- A. Many people want only a forgiving Jesus.
  - 1. The woman caught in adultery is often used as an example of not judging, rebuking, or condemning others (John 8:7).

2. But Christ was always willing to forgive (Luke 5:23-25; 23:34, 43).
  3. Admittedly, to characterize Jesus in such a way has a basis in truth, but to do so exclusively without recognizing His terms of forgiveness is a distortion.
- B. The real Jesus rebuked and condemned sinners and those in error.
1. Eight times in Matthew 23, Jesus rebuked and condemned the scribes and pharisees as “hypocrites,” “blind guides,” “brood of vipers,” and “whitewashed tombs full of dead men’s bones.”
  2. Jesus even rebuked those closest to Him (Luke 9:51-56; Matthew 16:23).
  3. Later His disciples acted the same in rebuking those in error.
    - a) Stephen rebuked the Jews (Acts 7:51-53).
    - b) Peter strongly rebuked Simon (Acts 8:20-23).
    - c) Paul rebuked Peter to his face before all (Galatians 2:11-14).
  4. And so to be Christ-like we must rebuke error and the erring (1 Timothy 5:20; 2 Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15).

### ***VII. The Saving Jesus Without The Judging Jesus***

- A. The religious world only knows a Jesus who saves (John 3:16; Luke 19:10).
- B. But the real Jesus is not just a Savior, but one day He will be the Judge.
  1. Jesus will judge everyone of us (Romans 14:9-10; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; 2 Timothy 4:1).
  2. Jesus not only preached salvation, but condemnation and wrath — both temporally and eternally (Luke 21:23; John 3:36).

**Conclusion.** Do not be misled by “another Jesus.” The scriptures, if one will be honest in studying them, fully reveals the Jesus which we will all stand before. Are you ready for Jesus to perform the work of judging you? If not, then begin anew today by repenting, confessing faith in Him and being baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. If you are not being faithful to the charge given to you as a Christian, then come forward and confess your sins.