

9. CAN JESUS TRUST YOU? (JOHN 2:23-25) 03/04/12
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ATCHISON, PASTOR LEE HENDON

THIS IS AN AWESOMELY PERSONAL, INTIMATE & INSIGHTFUL PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE ABOUT THE PSYCHIC OF JESUS. I USUALLY JUST SKIP OVER IT - **WOE IS ME!** ONLY THE DISCIPLE WHOM JESUS LOVED, JOHN, WOULD HAVE BEEN PRIVY TO SUCH PERSONAL INSIDER INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS. IT IS REFRESHING TO KNOW THAT JESUS HAD SUCH PERSONAL & INTIMATE RELATIONSHIPS WITH SELECT INDIVIDUALS. WE EACH NEED, REQUIRE, GOTTA HAVE THOSE TYPES OF RELATIONSHIPS FOR OUR OWN GOOD HEALTH & WELL BEING. WHO DO YOU REALLY TRUST WITH YOUR-SELF? IT IS HUMAN TO NEED SOMEONE YOU CAN REALLY TRUST & CONFIDE IN ABOUT THE INNER STRUGGLES OF YOUR PSYCHIC. JESUS MUST HAVE HAD SUCH A MOMENT WITH APOSTLE JOHN.

1. **MANY BELIEVED IN THE NAME OF JESUS.** JESUS WAS AN INSTANT SUCCESS & EXTREMELY POPULAR - JESUS WAS MOVING QUICKLY TO HAVE A HUGE FOLLOWING OF DISCIPLES. THERE IS BOTH JOY & SADNESS IN SUCH FAME & POPULARITY. BEING AN ELVIS PRESLEY FAN & HAVING LIVED IN MEMPHIS, TN WHEN HE DIED I SAW THAT JOY & SADNESS IN ELVIS. IT WAS A HUGE STROKE OF JOY TO HIS EGO THAT HE WAS "**THE KING.**" HIS EGO FED ON THE ATTENTION & FINANCIAL SUCCESS OF HIS POPULARITY. BUT THE SADNESS OF IT ALL WAS THAT HE HAD NO PRIVACY & NO TIME HE COULD EVER GO OUT IN PUBLIC & JUST BE HIMSELF - THE PRESSURE OF EXCESSIVE EXPECTATIONS & DEMANDS WERE CONSTANT & INTENSE. THE ONLY WAY HE COULD GO TO THE MOVIES OR A THEME PARK WAS TO RENT IT ALL AFTER HOURS FOR JUST HIMSELF & HIS FRIENDS. HE COULD NEVER JUST SHOW UP AT A MALL TO GO SHOPPING - A MOB OF FANS WOULD SWAMP HIM EVERY TIME. AN AFTERNOON STROLL IN THE PARK WAS IMPOSSIBLE. THE FAME & POPULARITY OF ELVIS HAD MADE HIM A PRISONER IN HIS OWN HOME TOWN.

JESUS WAS QUICKLY BUILDING EVEN MORE NOTORIETY & POPULARITY FOR HIMSELF THAN ELVIS. MESSIANIC HOPES & EXPECTATIONS WERE RUNNING HIGH. AT LONG LAST, THE MESSIAH HAD COME - **HIS NAME WAS JESUS.** THE CITY STREETS WERE NARROW MAKING IT DIFFICULT FOR JESUS TO MOVE ABOUT.

CROWD CONTROL WAS IMPOSSIBLE. HOW WONDERFUL IT WAS THAT PEOPLE WERE TAKING NOTICE OF THIS NEW GODLY PHENOMENON, JESUS THE CHRIST! JESUS WAS A NEW FOUND FOCUS OF BELIEF IN GOD. JUST TO SAY HIS NAME, *JESUS*, WAS TO IGNITE EXCITEMENT & GIVE NEW HOPE TO GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE MIDST OF HUMAN SUFFERING, PAIN & HARDSHIPS. JUST IMAGINE A CURE FOR ALL HUMAN PAINS, SUFFERING, ILLNESSES & DISEASES - A NATIONAL HEALTH CARE PLAN AT NO COST & IT REALLY, ACTUALLY WORKED! MANY PEOPLE BELIEVED IN HIS NAME.....

2. WHEN THEY SAW HIS MIRACULOUS SIGNS - THE GREEK TENSE INDICATES THE MIRACULOUS SIGNS WERE CONTINUOUS - REPETITIVE - TOO NUMEROUS TO COUNT. THE SIGNS OF JESUS GAVE A GLIMPSE, AN INSIGHT INTO THE VERY NATURE, POWER & PRESENCE OF GOD. THE WIDESPREAD FAME OF JESUS WAS FOUNDED UPON HIS MIRACULOUS ACTIVITY. NO ONE HAD EVER SEEN, EXPERIENCED OR IMAGINED SUCH EXTENSIVE POWER COMMANDED BY ANYONE - NOT EVEN EVER EQUALED IN THE HEROES OF MOSES, ELIJAH OR ANY OTHER PROPHET. GOD WAS INDEED MAKING A NEW POWERFUL STATEMENT WITH JESUS.

WE ARE INCLINED TO HAVE DOUBT & A HESITANCY OF FAITH THAT SUCH THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN DONE BY JESUS. WE ARE PERHAPS DISILLUSIONED BY THE T.V. EVANGELISTS & HEALERS THAT SEEMINGLY MAKE A PROFIT FROM SUCH "SIGNS." WE MUST ALLOW OUR EYES TO BE OPENED TO A JESUS THAT ACTUALLY DID SUCH SIGNS REVEALING THE POWER & PRESENCE OF GOD IN HUMAN TIME & SPACE. JESUS ACTUALLY DID THESE THINGS! HE REALLY DID! IF SO, WE SURMISE, HE WAS UNLIKE ANY OF OUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES. YES, INDEED, HIS MIRACULOUS SIGNS HAVE NOT BEEN EQUALED OR REPEATED. WHY NOT? BECAUSE JESUS WAS JESUS, IS GOD'S SON, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD & WE ARE NOT. THESE SIGNS WERE PERSONAL & UNIQUE TO JESUS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CAUSING BELIEF IN HIS NAME TO BE IGNITED - THEN & NOW. WHY IF JESUS HAD DONE SUCH THINGS, HE MUST BE, YES, HE MUST BE - THE VERY SON OF GOD - EXACTLY SO!

3. JESUS DID NOT TRUST HIM-SELF TO THEM. WHO CAN YOU TRUST WITH YOUR-SELF? IN REALITY, VERY FEW & FAR BETWEEN CAN BE GIVEN SUCH TRUST. MANY PEOPLE GET THEIR SELF IDENTITY, SELF WORTH FROM TRUSTING IN WHAT OTHER PEOPLE MAY SAY, THINK OR BELIEVE ABOUT THEM. A PERSON'S WHOLE

SELF WORTH & IDENTITY MAY BE BUILT UP OR TORN DOWN IN THE WHIM OR CARELESSNESS OF ANOTHER PERSON'S INFLUENCE. JESUS WAS NOT LIKE THAT - JESUS GOT HIS GROUNDING, HIS DIRECTION FROM GOD - HIS IDENTITY, HIS SELF WORTH - HIS MISSION - HIS PURPOSE - HIS WHERE WITH ALL - FROM GOD. JESUS KNEW ABOUT THE WHIMSICAL, FICKLE NATURE OF HUMANITY - HE WAS HUMAN TOO - HE KNEW TO TRUST HIM-SELF ONLY WITH THE FATHER - WITH GOD. THERE SEEMS TO BE VERY, VERY FEW REALLY HEALTHY, SECURE PEOPLE - CROWDS ARE EVEN WORSE - SO EASY TO SWAY A CROWD ONE WAY THEN THE OTHER. FROM HOSANNA TO CRUCIFY!

MOST PEOPLE CANNOT HELP THEMSELVES BECAUSE WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE THEY WILL CAVE INTO THEIR OWN SIN - THEIR OWN SHORT COMINGS - THEIR OWN INSECURITIES - THEIR OWN DEMONS OF THE NIGHT TO BE SELF SERVING EVEN AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER PEOPLE. DAMN THE TORPEDOES, FULL SPEED AHEAD! YES, THE DARKNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART CAN BE JUST THAT DARK & DAMNING. JESUS WOULD NOT TRUST HIS-SELF TO PEOPLE - THEY CAN TURN AGAINST YOU ON A DIME. THIS IS ESPEC-IALLY TRUE FOR JESUS BECAUSE HE WOULD NOT BE THE MESSIAH, THE SON OF GOD, THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD AS DEFINED & SHAPED BY OTHER PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS. JESUS WOULD DO THE WILL OF GOD. THE WAYS OF PEOPLE & THE WAYS OF GOD ARE NOT THE SAME - BELIEVE YOU ME. JESUS KNEW THAT FOR SURE.

THIS CROWD & MANY PEOPLE WERE ATTRACTED TO JESUS BECAUSE OF WHAT HE COULD DO FOR THEM/US. THAT IS VERY MUCH ACCEPTABLE FOR A BEGINNING TO FAITH - THAT IS WHAT THE SIGNS WERE FOR - TO SHOW THE POWER OF GOD FOR OUR LIVES. WHAT ABOUT WHEN FOLLOWING, BELIEVING IN JESUS BECOMES COSTLY? WHAT ABOUT WHEN JESUS COST US SOME-THING? THEIR FAITH IN JESUS WAS NOT YET DEEP BUT A PASSING TRANSIENT EXCITEMENT. FAITH BASED ON SIGNS (WHAT JESUS CAN DO FOR YOU) IS TOO SHALLOW & IMMATURE TO WEATHER THE TESTS & TIMES OF THE STORM & DARKNESS. A FAITH THAT DOES NOT COST THE BELIEVER ANYTHG IS WORTH JUST THAT - NOTHING.

WE HAVE A TERM FOR THAT - FAIR WEATHER CHRISTIANS. JESUS KNEW THE HEARTS/MINDS/SOULS OF PEOPLE - JESUS KNOWS

YOURS/MINE AS WELL. OFTEN TIMES WE MIGHT NOT BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES, OTHERS OR GOD BUT **WE CANNOT CON JESUS.** I HAVE HEARD EVERY EXCUSE UNDER THE SUN AS TO WHY A CHRISTIAN FALTERS OR FAILS OR CAN'T DO THIS, THAT OR THE OTHER..... EXCUSES ARE LIKE NOSES - EVERYBODY HAS ONE - WHAT ABOUT WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE - CAN YOU BE TRUSTED WITH THE PERSON, THE LIFE OF JESUS? IT IS HUMAN SIN THAT NAILED JESUS TO THE CROSS AFTER ALL THE SIGNS & MIRACLES WERE SAID & DONE. LET US BE COUNTED AMONG THE COMMITTED DISCIPLES THAT CAN BE TRUSTED ESPECIALLY WHEN OUR FAITH BECOMES COSTLY.