



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

*Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL*

March 6, 2022

Jesus And His Enemies (Marc Hyde)

The first thing that comes to mind when you think about Jesus and His enemies is, why would He have any enemies? All He did was go about doing good by healing the sick, making the blind to see, raising the dead to life, casting out demons, feeding the hungry, and restoring the strength of the crippled to walk again.

He also spoke of a place He was preparing that was forever free from pain, sorrow, death, hunger, evil, disease, decay, thirst, darkness, and fear. Why would anybody say, "well, that's not for me?" How could anybody in their right mind with the ability to reason and logically conclude say that?

Jesus told us the reason why people have that reaction to what He speaks of and the place He has prepared. Jesus speaks of those who react to Him this way as the ones who do not want Him to reign over them. When Jesus gives

commands to what a person must do in order to enter this place which He calls the kingdom of heaven, they turn away and follow Him no more.

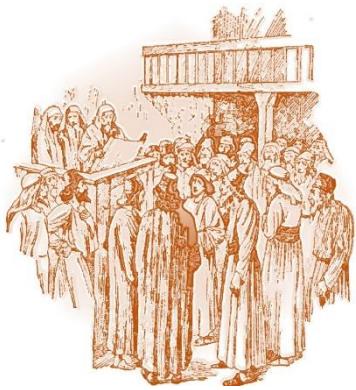
It is a natural reaction for people not to like those who want to tell them what to do. Have you ever heard a person say, "they're



not going to tell me what to do; who do they think they are?"

Jesus also spoke of another reason why people do not follow Him, and that is because of unbelief. People did not believe that He was who He said He was. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

After Phillip said for Jesus to show them the Father, He said, "If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father" (14:9). When Jesus calmed the sea, His disciples asked, "who can this be, that even the wind and sea obey Him" (Mark 4:41)? It was hard for people to believe that Jesus was God who possessed all power and resources,



BUT BEWARE OF MEN, FOR
THEY WILL DELIVER YOU
UP TO COUNCILS AND
SCOURGE YOU IN THEIR
SYNAGOGUES.
(MATTHEW 10:17)

Creator of the heavens and the earth. Even some that He was standing by and talking face to face with did not realize who He really was.

Jesus reacted to His enemies like no one had ever reacted before. Jesus loved His enemies. When He was hanging on the cross, He asked His Father to forgive them, for they did not know what they were doing. He also said that they were like sheep without a shepherd, meaning they were wandering aimlessly, searching for green pasture.

Jesus had compassion on His enemies who were like the blind leading the blind. He longed to gather them to Himself like a mother hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but they were not willing. Jesus loved His enemies to the point that He gave His own life for their sins by being crucified on the cross for their salvation. He is not willing that anyone should perish but that all should come to repentance.

May we all love our enemies as Jesus did, knowing that when it comes to love, it does not count the cost. And may we all realize that Jesus is our example to follow,

knowing that as Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, "love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those spitefully use you and persecute you ... rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven" (Matthew 5:44,12).

A country schoolteacher, applying for a job, was asked, "Do you teach that the earth is round or flat" "Which way do you want it taught?" was the reply. "I can teach it either way." Something like that is the attitude in many a pulpit today.

Living Water **(Author Unknown)**

During the days of sailing merchant ships, one such vessel becalmed off the coast of South America. Weeks went by without the slightest movement of wind. The ship was helpless and couldn't move. The sailors were dying of thirst when another ship drifted close enough to read their frantic signs for help.

"Let down your buckets," was the reply. They then found water suitable for drinking right beneath their keel. Although adrift at sea, they were surrounded by the freshwater current that came from the mighty Amazon River. All they had to do was reach for it.

People don't need to thirst for true life because Jesus' offer of living waters surrounds us. "They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:16-17).

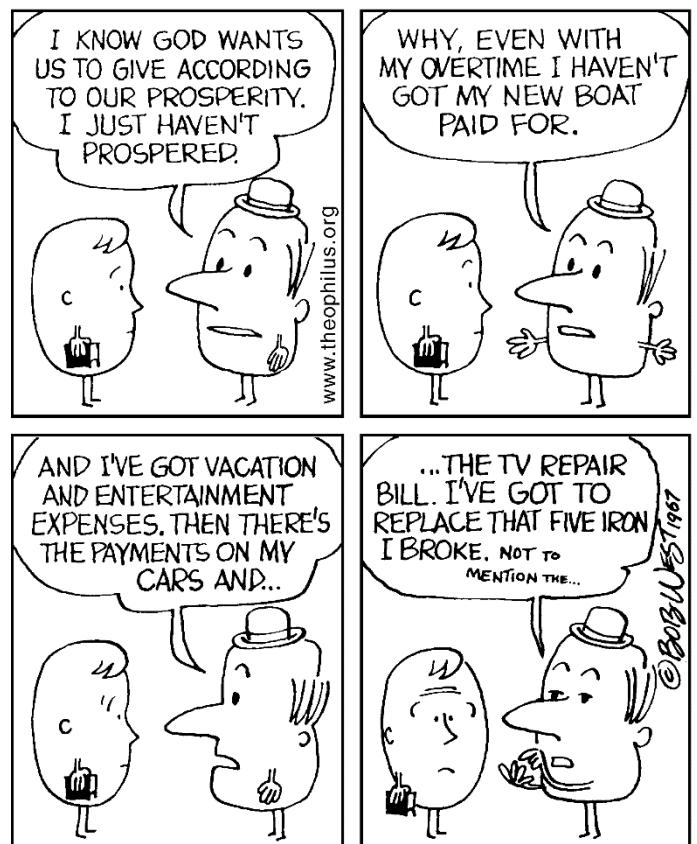
If you want to find out how rich you really are, count all the things you have that money can't buy.

The Sword Of Damocles (Paul R. Blake)

On the island of Sicily in the fourth century B.C., there ruled a tyrant named Dionysius II of Syracuse. He had in his court a certain obsequious "yes" man named Damocles who sought to gain an advantage by constantly flattering the cruel king.

One day he extolled the virtues of Dionysius so eloquently and at such length that the tyrant Dionysius proclaimed a magnificent banquet in his honor and invited him to sit on his own throne. However, in the midst of the festivities, Damocles happened to look up and discovered to his dismay that an unsheathed and razor-sharp sword hung suspended

THEOPHILUS



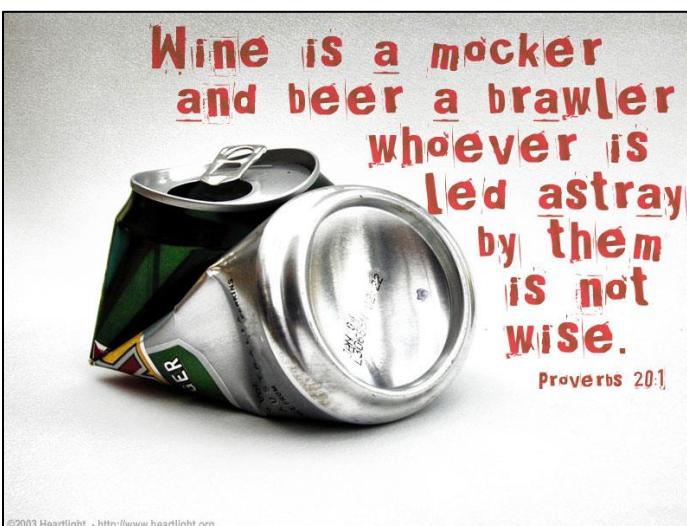
by its pommel over his head by a single horsehair.

The king wanted Damocles to understand by using the sword in that way that a ruler must always be aware of the danger he is in as he wields power from the throne. Damocles got the message that with great power comes great responsibility and that one must always be aware of the danger of misusing it when moved by the flattery of others; so, he humbly asked to be excused from the feast by saying that he no longer wished to receive such honor and fortune from the king.

The praise of men -- could there be anything more useless in this world, and yet at the same time, so fervently sought by both the self-absorbed and the insecure alike? If one is praised and honored by men in this world but is vilified by the Father in heaven, he lived his life in vain and died without hope.

But if he is rejected by men and glorified by the Father, his life had meaning in this world and an eternal home in the world to come.

"Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42).



Preaching the truth makes people either sad, mad, or glad. Too many people today leave church on Sunday neither sad, mad, nor glad; they go out as they came in. Better go out mad than just go out.
(Vance Havner)



Renewing Our Hearts To Christ

Open your heart to believe in Jesus
(John 6:66-69)

Read about Jesus every day
(Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)

Pray to the Father
(James 1:5)

Show Jesus in your life
(Acts 4:13)

Examine Jesus' love for you
(1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

FALL IN LOVE WITH YOUR SAVIOR AGAIN

He is the Son of the Living God
John 3:16

He is the One who died for you
John 10:11

He rose from the dead for you
1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Jesus is KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS
Revelation 19:16

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)
Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)
Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

❖ Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida
❖ Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri
❖ The saints in Nicaragua

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