



The Heart Of Jesus

Jesus disregarded the heaped up human traditions regarding the Sabbath and worship (Matthew 15:7-9). He ignored the man made spiritual importance of external cleanliness. He befriended sinners and welcomed gentiles. All this offended a great number of the religious. Most of all He offended them because He claimed to be the "Son of God" and to be "God" (John 1:1-2; 8:58).

Jesus was a man with a mission to show the world the Father (John 14:9), and to save the people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). He was willing to die a cursed death in order to do so (Galatians 3:13). He, "steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem" (Luke 9:51-53), where He knew He would die on the cross. He was a determined man for, "they were on the road to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them. And as they followed (the disciples) they were afraid." He took them aside and explained that He "the Son of Man" would be condemned to death (Mark 10:32-34).

That He was God in the flesh should not have surprised nor dismayed the Jews. God, the Father, called Him (Jesus) "Mighty God" and

"Everlasting Father" in Isaiah 9:6. "For unto us a child is born. Unto us a child is given. ... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father ..." (Isaiah 9:6).

Jesus was a man with a mission to show the Father to the world, and to save the people from their sins.

Instead of accepting the Son as "Mighty God", the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke their commandments they had set up for the Sabbath, but He "also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God" (John 5:18). Yes, the Jews understood that Jesus claimed to be God-The-Son. That meant that Jesus was their Lord, and what He said was to be obeyed. That meant those priests and religious leaders we no longer lords and authorities over the people and what they said didn't amount to anything. Deceivers they were, they couldn't stand having their power over the people being

taken away!

**Jesus declared to the people,
“... you have made the commandments of God of no effect by your tradition. ... And in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”**

(Matt. 14:6 & 9)

Jesus, the one called Immanuel (which translated means God with us, Matthew 1:23), healed and helped people, showed and taught the way to God the Father, and asserted the right to forgive sins (Mark 2:5-6). He did this knowing He'd be condemned to die for doing what He did, though He was doing no wrong. Jesus' conflict with the people climaxed with His own statement at His mock trial.

The High Priest asked Him, "Are you the Christ?" to which Jesus answered, "I am!" To which they tore their clothes, screamed at Him, spit upon Him and beat Him (Mark 14:61-65). **They took Him to the cross and crucified Him for being the Christ!** They didn't make Him be crucified!

He let them crucify Him for He could have called "more than twelve legions of angels" (over 72,000 angels) to rescue Him if He'd wanted too (Matthew 26:53).

He didn't call the angels because the heart of Jesus was to do the Father's will and go the way of the cross (Matthew 26:39) that He might save you and I from our sins.

“The hour is coming and now is, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.” John 4:23

Do you appreciate Jesus enough to live for Him? Or, do you hang on to and resist turning away from the worship traditions of men, thereby refusing to worship God in spirit and in truth?

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Page 2 of 2

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