

Jesus the Intolerant
12-29-13

Who Was Jesus? There are many works of art that try to portray Jesus. Most picture Him as a reflection of the ethnicity of the artist himself; therefore, there are many blond haired, blue eyed images of Jesus in Europe and America. We know that these images could not reflect the real appearance of Jesus of Nazareth; but do any come close? In fact, the only statement that is in Scripture as to His appearance is one of prophecy: "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him." (Isaiah 53:2). In fact, images of Jesus that portray Him as attractive in appearance are inaccurate if we read Scripture. Is it possible that this is not the only way we have a false impression of Jesus?

If you ask the person on the street about Jesus, they will give you their impression of Him. They might say "He loved sinners", or "He taught us not to judge"; they could say that "He brought peace to all" and "He never hated" and that "He was tolerant of others". Is this the real Jesus? No!

First, we find that He CHANGED Sinners, and would not accept them otherwise. He said "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (Luke 5:32). Jesus insisted that sinners change; that was His mission. He was not a minister of sin (Galatians 2:17)

Second, He never taught us not to judge; in fact, He COMMANDED judgment. If we read Matthew 7:1-5 beyond the first verse, we see just that. Elsewhere He said "Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment." (John 7:24)

Third, Jesus said He brought THE SWORD. (Matthew 10:34) "Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword." (Luke 12:49) "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" His peace was conditional; (Luke 2:14) "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased."

Fourth, He HATED sin, and those who are in Sin are His enemies. He said as much in Proverbs 6:16-19

Fifth, fundamentally and totally, He was INTOLERANT. Consider that Jesus said to cast out:

Anyone who did not believe Him (John 8:24)

Anyone who did not obey Him (Matthew 7:23)

Anyone who did not confess Him (Matthew 10:33)

Anyone who rejected His representatives (John 15:20 & Matthew 18:17)

A real image of Jesus is as the Warrior Judge described in Revelation 19:13-16. There we see Him in His true visage, bringing judgment to all men and condemning those in error. Jesus is the one whom Scripture says will judge all men; this means he is sending to Hell anyone who rejects Him.

Who Was Jesus? NOT the one many believe in. A false image still exists in many hearts as to who Jesus was. The real image DEMANDS we change.