

DISLIKED PREACHERS

Luke 6:22-23

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Nobody likes to be disliked or unpopular, no one likes to be shunned. It's not a good feeling to know that you are not appreciated. However Jesus went through all of that - and more. Jesus once said, "*...He that taketh not his cross and followeth after me, Is Not Worthy Of Me...*" "*...Beware of the man of whom all men speak well..*" Today it seems that pastors don't want to offend anybody and want to be liked by everyone and therefore "water down" their preaching to ensure that nobody gets his/her feelings hurt. Human nature has not changed and people still need to hear the solid, firey, convicting Word of God. What if every pastor in America began to preach God's Word as some of the firey preachers of the past? However in doing so, they would become unpopular like many unpopular preachers of the Bible.

1. **ENOCH** was very unpopular in his day and he preached about the coming of Jesus one day. He preached that Jesus would come with tens of thousands of His saints.
 - Sadly, many preachers/pastors never preach about the second coming of Jesus, therefore countless Church members have never heard a single sermon on the return of Jesus and know nothing about His return.
 - Even more sad is the fact that many preachers/pastors know very little about it anyhow.
 - Some pastors/preachers don't want to offend anyone, as they say "all people are good, no one is really bad, all are the children of God."
 - To preach about the coming of Jesus and all that will happen and the coming judgment will make a preacher unpopular.
2. **NOAH** was unpopular because he talked about coming disaster and doom.
 - Today Noah would be called a prophet of gloom and doom and not be popular with Church members for nobody wants or likes to hear anything that sounds bad.
 - Noah stood alone and believed what God said and in doing so, he "found grace in the eyes of the Lord."
 - To preach today as Noah did would make that preacher very unpopular.
3. **JOSEPH** was unpopular with his brothers because he told their father about their actions and deeds.
 - No pastor/preacher today would dare speak negatively about any of his church members, no matter how evil they had been or were.
 - Today is the age of "brotherly love, fellowship, don't fight, get along with everybody" for somehow maybe everyone can be helped."
 - God makes it very clear that His children are not to have any association with unfruitful workers of darkness.
 - "Preach the word - Reprove - Rebuke, Exhort"
 - It cost Joseph as it will cost any preacher/pastor who speaks the truth about evil and sinful things.
 - Many a pastor/preacher has been disliked and even "fired" because he dared to stake a stand against the sinful, evil deeds of a church member.
 - The way to be popular today is to preach "brotherhood" with all people, overlooking their sinful ways, considering only the good that might be found.
4. **MOSES** was an unpopular preacher as he was forever telling Pharaoh to "let my people go."
 - May God have mercy on any pastor/preacher who will accept the Church's money as salary, then let some denominational "superior" tell him what to preach, what to do and when to do it.
 - "*...And the Lord spake unto Moses, Go unto Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Let my people go that they may serve me...*" (Ex. 8:1)
 - Sadly, too many don't have time to serve God today as they are too busy with programs and such.
 - The Lord Jesus must come before programs, etc. Jesus is to be the priority in every Christian's life.

- Thankfully some preachers/pastors are breaking away from being told by some "superior" what to preach and what programs to have, etc.

5. NATHAN was unpopular because he preached to a king (big shot) about his sin. (2 Samuel 12:7)

- Every preacher/pastor has a message to deliver from God and woe to that preacher/pastor who fails to deliver that message exactly as the Lord has laid it down.
- Sadly some preachers/pastors get a little recognition from the "higher ups" and they forget their calling and forget God and what God wants, they bow and stoop to what the "higher ups" want them to do.
- America needs more preachers/pastors who will first listen to God for their message, then deliver that message just as God has given it, from His Word.

6. ELIJAH was unpopular because he was against the popular religion and its prophets.

- Elijah preached about coming judgment and even prayed that God would stop the rain. In one of America's national songs there is a phrase "God bless America..."
 - God can't bless America today unless the nation comes to its senses and confesses its sins and to do so needs to start in the pulpit then to the pew.
- Any preacher/pastor who does not preach the judgment of God needs to back out of the pulpit and go off somewhere and confess his sins. God is love, but God is also a consuming fire.
- Elijah was quite a preacher, but very unpopular.

7. MICAIAH was unpopular because he called some of the local prophets "liars." (2 Chron. 18:22)

- Micaiah actually called some of his fellow "preachers" (prophets) liars.
- Today there are many wearing "pastoral/priestly" clothing, parading around like they are genuine ministers of the Gospel but are just plain liars. (2 Corinthians 11:13-15).
 - Satan works within the Church circle and has done so in many places.
- Micaiah ended up in jail for preaching the truth of the Lord. He would not yield to anybody for any reason.
- America needs pastors/preachers today to be as bold, honest and resistant as Micaiah was.

8. JEREMIAH was unpopular because he kept on preaching about coming judgment.

- Jeremiah wept over his people but was fiery at the same time for every sermon he preached was on backsliding and judgment.
 - He wouldn't be popular today either if he preached the same thing over and over again and again, especially on coming judgment.
 - People today don't want to hear anything twice, they want something new every Sunday.
- America needs preachers/pastors who will hammer and hammer until the Gospel finally soaks in but that would make them unpopular and sadly most pastors/preachers care more about being accepted than what the people need to hear.

CONCLUSION:

1. How many pastors/preachers do YOU know who are unpopular because they preaching offended?
2. Would YOU be offended by a pastor/preacher who constantly preached about Jesus coming back, about coming judgment, about Hell, about sinfulness and the need to repent and get right with the Lord?
3. America needs pastors/preachers who will preach the truth at all times, under all conditions to every person who sits under their preaching.
4. America is lost unless its preacher/pastors begin to preach hard, and straight, not looking for popularity but for lost souls.