

## JESUS' IMPRESSION ON HIS ENEMIES

John 15:25

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** Those who loved Jesus saw "who" He really was inside as well as outside and it was to those who loved Him that He unlocked things of His heart. Sometimes hasty comments are made by those who are jealous, envious, or angry. People are always looking for the weakness in another person so that they can ridicule or build up their own ego's by feeling superior. Half-trues are what most people see in others. Friends see one thing in a person but enemies see another. Just what did the enemies of Jesus see? What was their impression of Him?

### 1. The enemies of Jesus were impressed by His reality, courage and friendship with so many others.

- Jesus' enemies condemned Him because he was "the friend of publicans and sinners."
  - The publicans and "sinners" were not the kind of people to be friends with.
    - Tax collectors were detested for they were called "traitors" to their country.
      - Jesus was friends with them and even called one to be His disciple.
  - Jesus went to their houses and ate and drank with them and therefore they labeled Him as a sinner.
  - Those whom Jesus made friends with called Him not a "sinner" but a "Brother."

### 2. The enemies of Jesus called Him a "Gluttonous man and a Wine-Bibber."

- Jesus was not like any of the religious men, nor like John the Baptist.
  - Jesus was gentle, loving to be with people.
  - He was always happy at social events, like dinners, parties and moved among all kinds of people with happiness and joy.
  - He was not like Isaiah or Jeremiah.
- Jesus always found somebody to listen to Him and whom He would in return listen to.
  - There was nobody like Jesus who was so happy and friendly with all the "questionable" people.

### 3. The enemies of Jesus were impressed by Jesus' composure in the middle of trouble.

- Jesus did weep with some friends when their brother died because they were crying, He also cried.
- Jesus never went around complaining or acting sad, even when He was beaten and crucified.
  - When Jesus did weep from sorrow, everyone was amazed and said, "Behold, He weeps!"

### 4. Jesus impressed His enemies by His power to work miracles.

- The disciples of Jesus were not stunned or breathless whenever Jesus performed a miracle.
- The crowds were filled with wonder at the miracles Jesus did.
  - A lesson here is that the closer one gets to Jesus, the less amazing is what all Jesus can do.
    - The more a person knows about Jesus, the more natural are the things He does.
  - To those who were ignorant of Jesus, they judged Him by other people they knew.
- None of Jesus' enemies denied His miracles.
  - Some said that Jesus did miracles by the power of "Beelzebub" but did not deny the miracles.
  - His enemies had to admit that Jesus could and did perform miracles.

## 5. Jesus' enemies were impressed by His intensity.

- His enemies went to see Him and to listen to Him and said that Jesus *"had a devil and is mad..."*
  - However some were thrilled by the depth and eloquence of His speech and said, *"Never man spake like this man..."*
- There was within Jesus a fire that glowed and shone through every word He spoke, therefore causing some to say that He was drunk or perhaps insane.
  - What caused Jesus to sound so different from everyone else was the fire that burned deep inside Him.

## 6. Jesus' enemies were impressed by His calmness.

- Jesus once said, *"...Come unto Me and I will give you rest..."*
  - Jesus' calmness was like the ocean when it is calm and smooth like it was asleep under the moon.
  - Jesus always remained calm no matter what the situation, although He did get angry at the religious leaders now and then and got upset to see the Temple of God being used for selling and cheating people.
  - People looked at Jesus, shrugging their shoulders and said that *"He hath a devil and is mad..."*

## 7. Jesus impressed His enemies by His constant Trust in God.

- The last cruel taunt, making fun of Jesus, was hurled at Him as He hung on the cross, *"...He trusted in God, let Him deliver Him..."*
  - It was bitter words, yet they were true, even with the nails being driven in His hands and feet Jesus trusted God.
  - Even one of the soldiers who helped crucify Him had to admit at the end that *"...Truly He was the Son of God..."*

## CONCLUSION:

1. Everyone has an enemy if they have acquaintances. Friends and enemies.
  - When enemies taunt you, can they say, "He/she trusts in God?"
2. Happy is the Christian of whom an enemy said, "Oh, he's/she's just one of those 'Christians...'"
3. Happy is the person who has revealed a trust in God that makes others jealous and full of hate.
4. Once again, Jesus is the example for the Christian, when enemies hurl insults, rude remarks, act like the Lord Jesus Christ.