

JESUS WAS MISUNDERSTOOD

Mark 15:35

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: Jesus was misunderstood by many from His childhood to the end of His life/ministry. Remember when Jesus went with His parents to Jerusalem to the Temple and His parents lost Him. They hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Him, thinking that it was childish behavior that caused the separation, that he had wandered off somewhere and got lost. When they found Him, they were upset and scolded Him to which He replied, "...*How is that ye sought me, wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?...*" His parents misunderstood why He stayed behind. Now on the cross in His dying hour, Jesus cried out to His Heavenly Father, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani...*" but those who heard Him cry out misunderstood "Eloi, Eloi" for Elias the prophet. They thought He was calling out to one of the prophets. All through Jesus' ministry He was misunderstood.

I. THE WAY JESUS WAS MISUNDERSTOOD

1. John the Baptist was not misunderstood.
 - Everyone recognized him as a prophet and they honored him as such.
2. Jesus was not misunderstood because of His subtlety.
 - Jesus was always simple in what He taught/said.
 - Jesus was filled with passion and love for all the people and therefore made things as simple for them as He could.
 - There has never been such a simple person on earth than Jesus Christ.

II. PEOPLE MISUNDERSTOOD JESUS' MOTIVES

1. Jesus was accused of "casting out devils by Beelzebub."
 - Demons were cast out, the sick healed, even the dead raised, all through God's love and God's power, yet Jesus was still misunderstood.
2. A biblical truth is that "the servant is not greater than his Lord.."
 - Any person trying to live as Jesus did, his/her motives will be misunderstood at times.
 - One must never take the world's praise or criticism seriously but lightly for final judgment belongs to God.

III. PEOPLE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT JESUS SAID

1. Jesus said, "...*Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up again...*"
 - They had no idea Jesus was talking about His physical body for to Jesus, the body was/is the living Temple of God.
2. Jesus said also, "...*Our friend Lazarus sleepeth...*"
 - The close followers of Jesus who loved Him deeply misunderstood what Jesus was talking about.
3. People, today, who love Jesus as deeply as His disciples did, misunderstand things that Jesus taught for they build their "doctrines, isms, faiths," upon His words only and forget that it is the "spirit" that gives life, not just His words just as His disciples did.

IV. THE SILENCE OF JESUS WAS MISUNDERSTOOD

1. When standing before Pilate He was asked many questions to which He answered none. Jesus remained silent, answering nothing, would do no miracle for Pilate.
 - Pilate took Jesus' silence as a confession of being unable to really do anything spectacular.

- Pilate, like others observing, misunderstood the silence of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus' silence is still misunderstood today.
 - Why doesn't Jesus step in and do or say something in today's wicked world?
 - Doesn't Jesus really care what happens to His faithful?
 - Does Jesus not even know what is happening today?
 - Like Pilate and those in Jesus' day, people today also misunderstand Jesus' silence.

V. JESUS IS MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE PEOPLE ONLY HEAR PART OF WHAT HE SAYS

1. The people around the cross that heard Jesus cry out "...*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani...*..." thought He was crying out for Elias, didn't hear all that Jesus had said.
 - They only caught the first word or two, and if they had heard everything He cried out, their thoughts about Jesus would have been different and would have known He was crying out to God.
2. Sadly today people take only parts of what Jesus taught/said and build doctrines and churches upon those separated words.
 - The Gospel is not just some part of what Jesus did, it is everything He did and why He did it.
 - To take a part and think that it is the whole thing is misunderstanding Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. It is true that one can take "parts" of what Jesus said and find eternal life, but it is not true that a Christian can live his/her life on just bits and pieces of the Gospel story, it takes everything Jesus did and said to live as He lived and to be obedient to what He expects.
2. Take an inventory of your own self. Do you just take certain parts of certain scripture and stress those separated truths more than the whole thing?
 - Are there only certain things Jesus taught and did that you focus on only?
 - One must study and work at having the full, rich Gospel. To take just a part and think that that is enough is to misunderstand the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. As in His days here on earth, Jesus was misunderstood, so it is also true today here.
 - To some He was just a small town preacher.
 - To some He was a prophet.
 - To some He was a nobody trying to make a name for Himself.
 - To some He died a noble death, but He's dead and gone.
 - To some He never came out of His grave, He's still as dead as ever.
4. Who is Jesus to YOU?