

HOW DO YOU TREAT JESUS?

Revelation 3:20

Introduction: In his adult life Jesus was treated as a "local" boy, son of the carpenter, Joseph from an insignificant little town. He was admired at first and everyone marveled at how He could do miracles. Some were astonished at His knowledge as He never had any schooling other than what He had gotten at home. After a while some wanted to crown Him king while many were afraid of Him and of course there were those who were jealous of His popularity. Toward the end of His life on earth, most of the people wanted to kill Him and even His disciples left Him. All this changed, however, upon His resurrection. His disciples became totally devoted to Him, willing to die (and most did) for Him. Their faith was unflinching concerning His resurrection and they became courageous, fearless and very excited about telling others about Him. How would you say Jesus is treated today?

I. IS JESUS TREATED AS AN INTRUDER?

- Is He looked upon as someone who imposes Himself as an unwelcome guest?
- Do people think that Jesus would invite Himself into a place where He is not wanted?
- Are people afraid to think about Jesus for fear that He might take advantage of their moment of openness?
- Jesus will never enter anyone's life unless the Holy Spirit creates the desire within a person and then that person MUST willingly invite Jesus into his/her life.

II. IS JESUS TREATED AS A THIEF?

- Do people feel that if Jesus is even considered, He might come into one's life and take something away that is precious?
- Are people afraid that Jesus is untrustworthy and must not be allowed into very much of one's life?
- Jesus does not come to take, but to GIVE - to give life more abundantly, eternal life.

III. IS JESUS TREATED AS IF HE WERE A POLICEMAN LOOKING FOR LAWBREAKERS?

- Are people afraid to be around Jesus because they think that He will always be pointing out their faults and weaknesses?
- When one's conscience bothers him/her, does he/she think that Jesus will be there to say, "I told you not to do that...?"
- The good news about Jesus is not good "advice." It is the fact that God loves you and Jesus went to the cross and paid for EVERYTHING you and I will ever do wrong. Jesus did not come to point out our faults, but to take our place and make things right between us and the Father. Jesus came to SAVE, not to condemn.

IV. IS JESUS TREATED AS A BEGGER?

- Do people think that Jesus hangs around begging for things you don't want to give Him?
- Do people think that Jesus is always wanting something from them? "Oh no, here comes that Jesus person again. I wonder what He wants this time?"
- Jesus doesn't need people! He is the mighty Creator. He wants to GIVE, not take from us. The more we allow Jesus into our lives, the MORE He is able to give us.

V. IS JESUS TREATED AS THE TOWN BULLY?

- Do people think that Jesus wants to boss everyone around? That He wants to tell everyone what to do and when to do it?
- Jesus is all knowing and all powerful. He DOES know what is best and is ABLE to make our lives happy and productive.

VI. IS JESUS TREATED AS THE LOCAL FUNERAL DIRECTOR?

- Do people really think that the only thing Jesus is good for is to be around at death and take our souls someplace?
- Is that the only time people need to ever give Jesus time, is at the funeral services of a friend or loved one?
- Since people don't like funerals or to think about death, is Jesus really someone or a NAME they just don't want to think about?

- Jesus IS THE ONLY ONE who can truly bring comfort and strength at the same time of death. He is the only one who can assure us of SOMETHING after death that is good.
- Jesus is the ONLY ONE who has been there and back.

CONCLUSION:

1. How do YOU see Jesus?
 - Do you think of Him as an intruder, uninvited, unwelcome?
 - Do you think of Him as a thief, come to take something away from you?
 - Do you think of Him as a policeman, waiting for you to make a mistake and then judge you for it?
 - Do you think of Him as a beggar, hanging around for you to give Him some of your time, money, self, etc.?
 - Do you think of Him as a funeral director, somebody to escort your soul to some far away place in the sky?
2. Jesus is none of these. He has absolutely no need of us but has complete and total love for us and wants only the best for us.
3. Where is Jesus in your life? Savior? Lord? Friend? Stranger?
4. It is God's will that we come to Him through Jesus Christ. There is no other way.