

HOW TO GET RID OF JESUS

John 11:45-54

Introduction: Our first reaction to that title is we don't want to get rid of Jesus! That seems a contradiction of church and Christian interest. Our country, our culture, our civilization has been built on Christian principles. Surely nobody wants to get rid of Jesus. However that has not always been so nor is it so now nor will it be so in the future. People have always wanted to get rid of Jesus.

I. BIBLICAL HISTORY SAYS JESUS WAS NOT WANTED

1. King Herod wanted Jesus dead when Jesus was just an infant. (Christmas story, the three wise men, etc.)
2. Religious leaders (not atheists) wanted to be rid of Jesus.
 - They were not afraid of Jesus, personally, or His miracles.
 - They were afraid that too many would begin to follow His teachings.
 - Jesus taught to love one's enemies.
 - To bless one's enemies.
 - To do good to one's enemies.
 - To pray for one's enemies.
 - The Jews hated the Romans and refused to accept Jesus' teachings to love one's enemies.
 - Jesus backed up His teachings with authority and works.
3. The religious leaders wanted to be rid of Jesus but wanted the Messiah, the Christ to come, but rejected Jesus.

II. ARE THINGS SO DIFFERENT TODAY?

1. We face the same question. Do we really want Jesus?
 - Are His teachings really right? Are they really what we need for today's society?
 - His Words have not changed anything yet, people are still the same today as in His day we say.
2. Caiaphas feared the consequences of accepting Jesus. Do we?
 - How can we survive in this kind of world by loving our enemies? Blessing our enemies? Doing good to our enemies? Praying for our enemies?
 - How can we defend ourselves by following the teachings of Jesus?
3. We want Jesus as our Savior, even our Lord but we don't want to have to follow His ways.
4. Herod wanted Jesus dead! We have found a better way:
 - Jesus said to love God only and then our neighbors as ourselves.
 - We have added a new First Commandment: "Thou shalt love Thyself first of all and above all else."
 - We are then free to serve ourselves in our own way, using our own judgment, living by the law of self-preservation.

III. HAVE WE REALLY RID OURSELVES OF JESUS?

1. It is human nature to curse and hope for revenge to fall upon our persecutors (enemies).
2. What if Jesus had done that? What if He had our attitude?
 - Then they would have been rid of Him.
 - There would be no gospel. No tidings of great joy. No Salvation. No Hope.
3. Jesus died praying for enemies. They just couldn't get rid of Him.
4. We want to save our own lives by fighting. Jesus says we must lose our lives in order to save them.

5. It is not Jesus we ought to be rid of. We need to be rid of our own ways, our own selves.

CONCLUSION:

1. Our old human nature wants Jesus OUT!
2. We are willing to worship Jesus, but not to OBEY Him fully.
3. We are willing to pay Him reverence, but we are not willing to follow Him completely.
4. In dying Jesus' final words are spoke:
"My death is for you. Accept me, reject me, but you cannot get rid of me. I am either your Savior or your Judge.
(Revelation 1:18)
5. Let's stop letting our old human nature run our lives and begin to let Jesus make something out of us. Something that is pleasing to God. Let's let Jesus in, totally, completely.