



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – August 26, 2018

To Know Christ...

Every last Sunday of the month, we will use this opportunity in the bulletin to explore knowing Christ and Him crucified. We will take application from the offering of our Savior, in order to better see our Lord and His heart. We will continue seeking to make His heart our own. As we conform to the life of His gospel, the Lord will also grant our hearts to grow and be refined in faith, until we see Him face to face.

Jesus prayed, "Let this cup pass from Me, yet not as I will, but as You will." (Matthew 26:39) When we pray to the Lord for an easier way in our lives, then we see the opportunity, we think it is sent from God, and therefore conclude it MUST be His will in our lives. Jesus certainly did NOT think this way.

In Luke 23:4-11, after Pilate finds no guilt in Jesus, he discovers that Jesus is a Galilean, therefore not under his own jurisdiction. Pilate thinks of the easy way out, and sends Jesus to Herod, who was over Galilee, and was in Jerusalem at the time. This would setup a possible easy way out for Jesus, if he would be tempted into it. Herod was "very glad" when he saw Jesus; Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead (Luke 9:9), and wanted to see Jesus perform some miracle or sign. Jesus could have easily swayed Herod, and seen this as an easy way out & the Lord answering His prayer to let this cup pass. However, Jesus would not even answer Herod at all after being questioned at length. What did Jesus get for holding to His Father's will? The religious leaders accused Jesus forcefully (vehemently), motivated by their feelings of envy to attack Jesus. The soldiers mocked Jesus and treated him with contempt (looking down on him as one without value). Yet Jesus would not be deterred from doing His Father's will.

We know the Father's will is to forgive. But do we seek for an easy way out and even pray for it? When we see our enemy at a gathering or the store, do we look to avoid them, and slip out

the door? And then pray to God in thanks for the easy way out not having to interact with our enemy? When Jesus held to the Father's will, He was falsely accused, looked down on, and mocked. When we are falsely accused & mocked, will we keep silent? When we are looked down on, do we find strength in knowing our Lord is in control? To imitate Jesus' heart, we must submit completely to the Father's will. We must stop looking for an easy way out, but instead seek for the Father to sustain us and lift us up by His almighty hand, not letting our fears and doubts impede us from forgiving and loving. When will we refuse the easy way out to do our Father's will like Jesus?

- Carey Terry