



"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 – November 27, 2022**

## To Know Christ...

People do not always welcome change. Sometimes people even hate change. However, at other times change leads to the best possible outcome for everyone. As for the religious-minded Jews living during the days of Jesus, a main focus was ... Listen to Moses! (Some wanted to supplant Moses; see Matthew 23:2) Parents and grandparents told their children and grandchildren, Listen to Moses (also the Law of Moses). Aunts and Uncles told their nieces, nephews, and neighborhood kids, Listen to Moses. Religious leaders said, Listen to Moses. The righteous folks told others, Listen to Moses. It was a constant message to almost every religious-minded Jewish man, woman, boy, and girl ... Listen to Moses!

Peter and Andrew were raised in a Jewish community around the Sea of Galilee. What do you suppose they heard concerning Moses during their life and childhood? Even when Peter was being told about eating foods that were deemed unclean by God (learned via Moses' writings), Peter said, "**Lord, I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean.**" (Acts 10:14) Where does the instruction for this lifestyle begin? (At home; Peter & Andrew still worked with their father when Jesus called them as disciples.) Moses was heard even in their diet; their parents (I assume their mother too – via cooking) led the vocal instruction by also living the example of listening to Moses.

When Jesus was transfigured before Peter, James, and John while on the high mountain, one statement was proclaimed, "**This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!**" (Matthew 17:5) In the midst of the darkness, Jesus' face shone like the sun and His

garments became as white as light (even whiter than anyone on earth could make them). Jesus SHINED and His Father proclaimed, “LISTEN TO HIM!” Even with Elijah and Moses being present before Peter, James, & John ... LISTEN TO HIM! JESUS is SUPREME, even over Moses!

How hard would it have been to stand upon Jesus’ word and His teachings over Moses? They would have to go against their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, religious leaders, and other “righteous” people in order to Listen to Jesus over Moses. Change can be hard, and change can be hated by some, but this was a change that would lead to the best possible outcome, salvation by faith in Jesus. Have there been religious thoughts that helped mold and shape our thinking by those who influence our lives, such as our family, community, or country? But when those ideals come in conflict with Jesus, whom do we listen to? We hear statements: “there is good in everyone” [see **Matthew 23:15**], “God would never let me believe a lie” [see **John 8:43-45**], or “only a few people go to destruction, not those who work in God’s name” [see **Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23**]. Do we need to change whom we listen to? LISTEN TO JESUS! Even if His word goes against our childhood, community, religion, and/or family. Whom we listen to affects our children and others around us as well, either for evil or for good. He who “**has ears to hear, let him hear.**” (Matthew 11:15 / Mark 4:9, 23 / 7:16 / Luke 8:8 / 14:35)

-CT