

Morning Sermon April 12, 2015

Jesus' True Testimony

Luke 22:63-71

Luke starts this passage speaking about the cruelty and mocking Jesus endured –

⁶³ Now the men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him. ⁶⁴ And having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and asked Him, saying, Prophecy! Who is the one who struck You?" ⁶⁵ And many other things they blasphemously spoke against Him.

1. Mocking - :63
2. Beating - :63
3. The combination of both mocking and beating in the blindfold / strike and "Prophecy!" Who is the one who struck You? GAME they thought they were playing - :64
4. Much blasphemy - :65

What would such treatment do to most people? Confuse them? Make them angry? Yet, Jesus had prophesied this torture; He was ready for it

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³¹ Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. ³² "For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. ³³ "They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." (Luke 18:31-33 NKJ)

I. *Yet, Luke lacks some of the detail the other Gospels tell us about Jesus being beaten and mocked and especially details about His trial (s) –*

If you compare Luke's Gospel to the others, you will notice, he leaves a lot out, both a major portion of a trial (or pre-trial) before Annas, and he leaves out details. Annas & Caiaphas the father and son-in-law / past and current priests are not even mentioned by Luke. They are mentioned in the other Gospels. I believe Luke knew the other Gospels had already covered many of the details he missed. Luke's focus is on one portion of Jesus' testimony.

II. *Luke shows us the detail of a certain portion of Jesus' testimony, according to Luke Jesus did not immediately tell them He was the Christ, WHY?*

Matthew and Mark seem to summarize the questioning about Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God and they give us only Jesus' final answer which is the same final answer given by LUKE, they are not contradicting Luke, they are just not as detailed about a particular question –

⁶⁷ "If You are the Christ, tell us." But He said to them, "If I tell you, you will by no means believe. ⁶⁸ "And if I also ask you, you will by no means answer Me or let Me go.

Why are these details important? What do they show us about Jesus? What about His captors, questioners?

1. *Christ's delay or refusal to immediately answer the questions about His being the Christ shows us He KNEW His captors:*

A. *He knew their bad theology, they were mistaken about the Christ, He had already questioned them on this -*

⁴¹ And He said to them, "How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? ⁴² "Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, ⁴³ Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" ⁴⁴ "Therefore David calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" (Luke 20:41-44 NKJ)

Christ was / is the Son of David, in regard to His humanity; but He is also the Son of God, much more than just the Son of David, which was what the Scribes were saying –

³⁵ Then Jesus answered and said, while He taught in the temple, "How is it that the scribes say that the Christ is the Son of David? ³⁶ "For David himself said by the Holy Spirit: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'" ³⁷ "Therefore David himself calls Him 'Lord'; how is He then his Son?" And the common people heard Him gladly. (Mark 12:35-37 NKJ)

This is what Jesus was speaking about when He said, "if I tell you, you will by no means believe."

B. *He knew their bad hearts --- "or let Me go." Luke 22:68*

Not that He was trying to 'get away' He was NOT, He came for this purpose, but He also knew their hearts.

Jesus knows us all –

²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men,
²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man. (John 2:24-3:1 NKJ)

2. Christ delay in answering their question shows He had a HIGH REGARD for TRUTH and the best COMMUNICATION of it –
If He would have said to them, Yes, I AM the Christ, He would be telling them the TRUTH, for He is the Christ!

Yet, understanding their bad theology, their misunderstanding about the concept of Christ, He would not be communicating TO THEM the TRUTH, unless He first corrected their faulty notion of THE CHRIST, so that it would be more like Peter's ---

¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:15-16 NKJ)

To be right with God, they would have to acknowledge that He was the Christ, the Son of God! Their faulty understanding of the notion of "The Christ" was part of their problem. Correcting them on this notion did not change their minds or hearts. But it did take away a potential complaint they might voice at Him from Hell ...

They may have said, you knew how we were mistaken and yet you made no effort to correct us. But they CANNOT say this now – even beaten, and near death, Christ is concerned that even the ungodly receive the best, the most accurate communication of truth!

A. He makes sure they understand Who He is, He makes sure they understand they are about to crucify ONE Who would be sitting on the right hand of God –

⁶⁹ "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God."

- (1) The right hand of God was a position of authority / power.
- (2) It was especially a position wrought with authority to judge. They may judge Him, but ultimately He would judge them.

B. Finally, they understood what He was saying, but they did not believe it –

Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." ⁷¹ And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." (Luke 22:63-71 NKJ)

III. The clear statements Jesus makes about Himself, being the Son of Man, who would sit at God's right hand and about their being right calling Him the Son of God, these statements tell us the TRUTH and nothing less than the full truth will He Who is the TRUTH settle for –

⁶⁹ "Hereafter the Son of Man will sit on the right hand of the power of God." ⁷⁰ Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." ⁷¹ And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth." (Luke 22:69-71 NKJ)

¹⁴ "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: (Revelation 3:14 NKJ)

1. In the midst of great trouble trial, even beating, our Lord was clear-headed!
2. In the midst of enemies who hated Him He is concerned they get the truth right and they get the right truth, even though they do not believe, His aim is to speak rightfully, truthfully and so even THEY would clearly understand what He was saying!

IV. Application –

1. How important is it for us to get TRUTH right about Jesus, about God?
2. How important is it for us to aim to communicate this truth rightly, correcting those who misunderstand, not only for their sake's but for the TRUTH's sake and for the sake of others who may hear!

¹⁸ "Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him." (Luke 8:18 NKJ)

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