

How many of you have met someone who is against Christianity?

How many met someone who thinks Jesus is a bad person?

It is fashionable for almost everyone to be pro-Jesus. You would think He was the most likable person ever. But if that's the way He was,

why did His life end with the masses of people clamoring for His blood?

Why were there organized plots to murder Him from the time he was born until He was finally murdered when He was about my age?

Why did the Romans beat Him beyond recognition?

Why did the Jews repeatedly pick up stones to stone Him?

Could it be that Jesus wasn't the innocuous, pale, insipid milquetoast guru type that our culture has made Him into?

1:45

If Barbara Walters could interview some of the people who were around when Jesus was around, we might get a little different picture.

“Do you remember the first time you met Jesus?”

“I'll never forget it. I still have the scars.”

“Why? What happened?”

“As you know, our biggest holiday of the year was Passover. It was like Christmas for you – but way bigger, it's a huge celebration that goes a whole week. Every Jewish male over 12 years old is expected to come.

People came from all over. 1.25 mil. Had to celebrate within Jerusalem Jerusalem was less than 1 mi. X 1/2 mi. (would fit between here and S Boulder Rd.), which required that they

expand the boundaries (included Bethany and other little towns).

Now I realize people think we were greedy or whatever, but think of it. Any time you have that many people coming into town, there are always vendors trying to make a living.

FINALLY, after years of applying, I got a permit for a booth in the Temple courts to sell my sheep. Any other time a lamb would go for about \$50, but during the feast I could get 4 or 5 hundred each! I was set to make more money this one week than I did all of last year.

“What happened?”

“Well, there I was, standing at my booth – people were lined up half way across the Court of the Gentiles! Everything was going great.

Then, I heard a voice behind me. Before I had a chance to turn around – WHACK! – a stinging pain across my back. It made me mad – I figured some jerk was trying to drive his animals and wasn't watching what he was doing. I turned to go after him, and WHACK! – I got it again. It was no accident. I took one look at His face and realized He wasn't about to back off. I had to leave my money and all the sheep and everything – I just had to get out of there before taking a third blow...

I'll never forget the first day I met Jesus – I still have the welts across my back.”

5:00

I don't know if that's what happened to someone, but I do know that a bunch of

people, the first time they ever met Jesus, were whipped by Him. (injured? - people like that don't just leave their money for nothing)

Let me tell you the story of how it happened:  
5:41

**Mal.3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.**

The Jews taught that this meant the Messiah, when He first appeared would appear on the roof of the Temple and do some spectacular miracle in front of everyone. That's why Satan took Jesus up there.

But that's not what it meant. So what *did* it mean? Mal.3 is that last ch. In the OT. God gave that promise, and then was silent for 400 years. All those years there were no prophets – just that last promise ringing in the people's ears for 400 years.

**Jn.2:12 After this he went down to Capernaum with his mother and brothers and his disciples. There they stayed for a few days.**

**13 When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.**

This was the biggest feast of the year. Capernaum was like a resort.

Remember you are a disciple. What are you and the other 5 thinking? "Wow, we sure picked the right guy to follow. First a wedding, he provides all this amazing wine, there is a great feast, dance and celebration, couple days at Capernaum, now we are on our way to the greatest feast of the year -

another whole week of celebration. This is going to be fun. I might put on a few pounds in this ministry." Not like J the B

Mood changes fast

8:00

When they got there, they found the same thing they found every other time.

Tents and camps all over everywhere. Inns full - every room, tents, campers, RVs

As Jesus entered the Temple, his eyes, ears and nose were assaulted with a revolting jolt. A literal zoo. It was like a stock show - vendors and all.

Annas' Bazaar OT everyone could (5 cent) doves, but unblemished (not sick, etc.) took advantage of that - like movie popcorn

2 day's wage tax, Non-jewish currency was fine for any other purpose, but not this - it cost an extra day's wage to get the money  
The cost of having an animal inspected was 1/4 days wage. It would certainly be rejected. Normally you could go outside the Temple and get one for one day's wage, but inside they were as much as 20 day's wages.

11:30

**14 In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money.** – It was God's house. A place for prayer, and they were carrying one with absolutely no regard for God at all. There are few things uglier than coming to a place of worship and ignoring God.

Annas and the Rel leaders controlled everyone. They were about to meet someone over whom they had no control.

12:22

Here is J and the disciples being bumped as

they move through the crowd - watching their step! (Manure everywhere) Loud. animals, people yelling. Jesus watches a poor family who loves God trying to worship but their little lamb is rejected, and they don't have enough \$ to buy one. They are turned away. Someone tries to sell Jesus a goat. Jesus doesn't answer. You watch him. He's looking straight down to the ground. He is looking for something. cords and ropes? Now he's sitting down and weaving them together. What is he making? A whip? You notice as he is twisting them together you can see the veins in his forearms and his biceps flex. Is he mad?

14:20

**15 So he made a whip out of cords,**

Wow, a whip. He must be planning on doing something with the animals. Will he round them up and start giving them away?

What happened next was a shock. Jesus put that whip to the backs of the sellers and buyers!

**and drove all from the temple area, including sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here!**

We know from the grammar as well as the other time Jesus did this that he drove the people out.

Weren't there temple guards? Yes.

16:00

What a scene! Do you think Jesus actually injured the people? Must have hurt enough to move them out! What would have happened? - Attention is shifted from the bargaining and yelling to this commotion. People are shouting. Now running. Suddenly there is a clearing. People are rushing toward the exits. The police try to stop it. They can't. This one man clears the entire Temple! Look at Peter - dumbfounded

John's mouth open

Andrew amazed

Phillip and Nathaniel can't believe it

A moment ago there were 1000s, now debris.

I guess the Lord came to his temple suddenly. But not what they expected. They wanted Him to drive out Rome (could have), but the issue with him was worship, not politics.

They thought he would come suddenly to His temple, gather an army and drive out Rome.

But instead he came suddenly to His temple and drove *them* out!

18:35

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Why didn't they dog pile him? They couldn't touch him anymore than the lions could bite Dan.

Remember John's purpose - to present Jesus as God. We would expect to see him demonstrate some of the attributes of God. Here we see not the anger of an annoyed man, but the wrath of God.

One thing that is clear about God is that He gets very, very angry. That is one of the hardest things to believe - for me it just requires pure faith. When I look around, I don't see it much.

19:50

The wrath of God is an under-rated attribute. It gets a lot of bad press, but it is important. God is perfect and possess every virtue in a perfect way, and has no flaws in His character. That requires that He have wrath.

If anyone ever tells you he believes in a God that has no wrath - you know you are dealing with a false god - a god who is evil and not good. The ability to get angry at evil is an important virtue - a virtue that our culture is losing along with every other virtue.

21:20

Most people think that if they do enough good things, God will overlook the bad things they have done. If God ever overlooked any bad thing, He would not be perfect, He would not be just, and He would have flawed character.

Suppose a person becomes so callous that he could watch his own family be tortured and have no reaction. What would you think of a man who could watch his young daughter be raped, and not be bothered at all? You would say he has an extreme perversion. The ability to become angry at evil is a virtue, and the failure to do so is a sin.

22:00

**Rev.2:20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.**

To tolerate evil is wrong. To be intolerant toward evil is a virtue.

**2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. 3 You have persevered...**

**Isa.5:20-23 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter...23who acquit the guilty**

**Pr 17:15 Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent--the LORD detests them both.**

**Pr 24:24 Whoever says to the guilty, "You are innocent"--peoples will curse him and**

**nations denounce him.**

**Jer 48:10 "A curse on him who is lax in doing the LORD's work! A curse on him who keeps his sword from bloodshed!**

Does that mean we are to go around meting out punishment on sin? No, God has given that responsibility to the govt. But you can tell how godly your character is by what you get mad at.

24:22

How do we reconcile the fact that God is a God of love, and the passages about the wrath of God? Is that some kind of paradox? No. There are a lot of things about God that are beyond our understanding, but that isn't one of them.

Love and anger are not mutually exclusive. In fact, love is the *cause* of anger. The more love there is, the more anger there will be, and where there is no love, there is no anger.

If you are indifferent, you don't get angry. If you don't care one way or another about campaign finance reform, you could hear a passionate speech on either side and you wouldn't get mad. If you can't stand sports, then the Broncos can get an unfair call and you don't get mad.

But let someone assault your wife, or insult your husband, or bully your son at school, and you are mad. Why? Because anger is the result of when something you love is mistreated. The more love you have for that thing, the stronger your anger.

So we would expect God's wrath to be fierce beyond comprehension. We would expect hell (the place where God unleashes His wrath against evil), to be far worse than we would make it if we were in charge, because

God's love for good is so far beyond ours.

27:00

That's exactly what we find.

**Rev.19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter."\* He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

**Rev.15:7 Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever.**

**1 Thes.2:6 The wrath of God has come upon them at last.** Those who killed Christ

**Col.3:5 Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.**

**Ro.1:18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,** The foundation statement of the entire Gospel

30:10

2 kinds of anger:

1. Righteous anger (Jesus)
2. sinful anger (Eph.4)

RA springs out of a love for God, and SI springs out of a love for self.

WHAT IS RI? Extreme offence? (Jesus - cross)

SI is when someone steps on you

RI is when someone treads on God

Jesus - cross, not a word except prayer

But show irreverence at His Father's house and he is fierce in his anger.

32:45

We struggle w/ selfish anger (especially w/ each other and kids)

Some of you angry with your fam last night.

Some with each other this morning

Some are getting angry at me right now!

34:45

**Eph.4:26 "In your anger do not sin" : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,**

Do not sin by letting the sun go down

Knows our hearts - "I'm not angry, just frustrated, annoyed, concerned, etc."

**31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.**

36:15

HOW TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

Realize the cause. The view that you have rights.

When saved, to whom did you give your life?

Everything? Who is your Master? What are you? How many rights does a slave have?

Don't try to solve the anger problem - it is just a symptom. Solve the disease (selfishness and pride).

Develop a mindset of having no rights. This is great - then people cannot control you anymore. They can't ruin your day.

38:25

WHAT ABOUT THE MEAN TIME?

Psy - let it out? No (anger is not some substance that you can let it all leak out and there is no more)

Man at Dominos - blew up, got madder and

madder - (probably still mad). Expressing doesn't make it go away - it makes it worse.

41:00

So what to do? Replace it.

**32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.**

A soft answer turns away wrath – not only theirs, but yours.

When both (like Jesus) err on the side of non-anger.

The contrasts with last week are obvious, but the key to understanding it is the similarity. Anyone see it? They are both attacks on false religion. There are a lot of terrible things in this world, but none are as serious as false religion.

We need to decrease our selfish anger, but we also need to increase our righteous anger.

Focus on loving God more and loving self less. Wonder how you are doing? Check your temper.

- Potluck (love feast)
- Offering

**BENEDICTION:**

**1 Ti.6:15,16 God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.**

- Postcards
- Tapes