



# Faith Is Action

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**WE WOULD SEE JESUS**



# “We Would See Jesus”

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Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead, a notable miracle that could not be disputed. He had raised others from the dead, but this man had been dead and in the tomb four days (John 11:1-44). The news of Lazarus’ resurrection had spread everywhere and became the catalyst for many to believe on and follow Jesus (Jn.12:9-11). They were convinced that He was who He said He is: The Son of God and their Messiah. The story we will read took place on what we refer to as *Palm Sunday*, just days before His crucifixion. It’s remarkable how quickly things can turn on their head. First we will see the great procession when they were extolling Jesus and exalting Him as King. One week later, they were crucifying Him.

*“And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strew them in the way. And*

*the multitudes that went before and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.*

*“And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves. And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.”*

*“And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the*

*Son of David; they were sore displeased, and said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?”* (Matthew 21:8-16).

This was the great triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He had sent His disciples to go a particular place where they would find a donkey tied up. They were to tell the owner “*the Lord has need of him,*” and he’ll give it to you (Mark 11:2-7). This fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9: “*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold thy King comes unto thee riding upon an ass...*”

## Save Us Now!

Imagine in your mind’s eye: A multitude, and some took off their outer robes and laid them on the ground for Jesus’ donkey to walk over. Others took palm branches and waved them: Some were going before Him and some were following, and they were crying out, “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*” This is very powerful. The only place we find *Hosanna* in Scripture is this incident. *Hosanna* means: “*Save us now.*” When they said, “*Thou Son of David,*” they were attributing to Jesus a Messianic title. They were attributing to Him the qualification of being in the line of David, the *kingly* line. They were saying, “*You are the Messiah. You*

*are the seed of David. You are qualified to be our king, and we want You to be our king and save us now.*” They were under Roman servitude, and they were ready to throw off their oppressor. They thought, *Now is the time, and this Jesus of Nazareth is the guy to do it. He’s the one who can throw the Romans off of our backs and set us free.*

But they missed the most important thing: Jesus had come to save them by throwing off *the oppression of their sins*. The angel Gabriel had told Joseph: “*That shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins*” (Mt.1:21). YESHUA means *Jehovah’s salvation*. The rest was secondary, and it would have fallen into place had they received Him as their Savior.

The procession had made its way to the Temple, and when Jesus saw the moneychangers who were corruptly ripping off God’s people, especially the poor, He began to cast them out with their merchandise, declaring angrily: “*It is written, My house is the house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.*” The disciples had never seen Him like this. He was cleaning God’s house in righteous indignation. Later they recalled the Scripture: “*The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up*” (Ps.69:9). This holy housecleaning added fuel to the fire of the priests and scribes’ jealousy. Then the sick were brought to Jesus in the Temple, and He healed them.

Now for the last straw: Even the

little children were dancing and crying aloud, “*Hosanna to the Son of David!*” When the chief priests heard this, they were “*sore displeased.*” They were “*evily*” unhappy. The truth is, they were envious.

Jesus had the audacity to clean out the corruption of the money changers, and this added insult to injury. Already upset because the people were saying “*Hosanna to the Son of David,*” and because Jesus had said, “*This is My Father’s house,*” essentially claiming to be the Son of God—*now even the kids were worshipping Him!* They said, “Do you hear what these kids are saying? Jesus basically replied: “Yes, I hear them loud and clear. They are fulfilling prophecy—Psalms 8:2. Hey Guys, You’re the chief priests—don’t you know your own Scriptures? Have you not read: *Out of the mouth of babes, and toddlers, and little ones, and children, thou hast perfected faith and praise and strength?*” Perfect praise comes out of the mouths of babes, because they’re pure hearted. In Luke’s account, Jesus said: “*I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the rocks would cry out.*” Jesus was saying, “I’m not going to tell these children to be quiet, because out of their hearts flows the most perfect praise.”

Yes, the adults were saying, “*Save us now,*” but they all had their agendas. Those kids didn’t have an agenda. The Holy Spirit had touched their hearts, and they were fulfilling the Word of God. Out of their pure

little hearts, they were saying, “*Save us now.*” Children’s hearts have not been tainted by pride and prejudice. They are loving and open to love. They have to be taught to hate. They have to be taught to be prejudiced over skin color. Their spirits have not been tainted with racism. They haven’t gone through all the junk and hurts that adults have in life. They haven’t been exposed to much evil, and their little minds are not ready to comprehend it any way. Their hearts are still pure and clean. When mothers brought their babies and little ones to Jesus to put them on His lap and ask Him to bless them, the disciples tried to stop them, but Jesus rebuked them: “*Let them come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven.*” Then He took them up in his arms and blessed them (Mt.19:13-15).

## Come As A Child

Another time strife broke out between the disciples, and they argued who was going to be the greatest in the kingdom, and who was going to sit on the left and on the right of Jesus. They had this debate more than once. On one occasion, Jesus took a little child and put him in the midst of them, and said, “*Do you see this little child? Except you be converted and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever shall humble himself as this little child, shall be the greatest in the kingdom.*” (MT.18:1-4). The reason is, they

don't have the agenda: *I want to be on the left, or the right; I want to be the chief; I want to have the best title and the entitlements that come with it.* Their little hearts are sincere and uncynical, trusting and believing. How easy it is to teach little children about God and Jesus! It is so simple. They just receive it. They just believe it. This is why it's important to get the truth into their tender hearts while they are little, especially before they're seven years old. A lot of who they are going to be is set by age seven, and why we must get the seeds of Scripture in them when they are little.

I recently did a funeral for my neighbor. Sick for several weeks, he went to the hospital, and they found he had cancer and gave him 6-12 months to live. He died in two weeks. He was only 54. Of course, the family was turned upside down. We went to see him in the hospital and had prayed with him to receive the Lord. They have 10 grandchildren, ages 18 months to 10 years, and there are several young ones. They were not church people, but he and his wife had come shortly before he got sick and she received prayer. God had been dealing with his heart for some time, and he had been watching Christian TV every day, so he was very receptive to prayer in the hospital. He was ready to go. He was truly born again before he left this world.

At the viewing, all the little grandchildren kept saying, "*Poppy's in Heaven with God.*" They let the little ones see him in the casket, and

you would think they would be saying, "*Poppy is here.*" But they just kept saying that Poppy is in Heaven with God. His widow, their grandma, was marveling at the fact that the little ones *got it!* Their young minds can't understand death and Heaven, but their spirits, their pure unadulterated hearts, understood it. It was so precious, and it was of great comfort to her. When she told me about their response, I remembered a story I had just read a few days before which I shared with her:

A four-year-old girl named Sachi had a brand-new baby brother. She kept pleading with her mom and dad to allow her to go in the room with the baby all by herself, but they didn't think it was a good idea, because they thought, *What if she's jealous of the baby and tries to smack him or pinch him or shake him?* Every time she would ask, they would change the subject, but she was insistent. Because she was always loving towards the baby, very affectionate and kind, and became more urgent with her request, they finally agreed. They let her go in the room with the baby and shut the door, but they left it open a crack so they could see and hear what was going on. Why did this four-year-old girl want to be alone with her little baby brother?

She put her face down right next to his and said, "*Baby, tell me what God feels like, I'm starting to forget.*" This says, little children, whose spirits come from the Father in Heaven,

are still tender enough to understand and sense our Heavenly Father's presence. But as they get older, and go to daycare and to kindergarten, and get around other people, and hear *this, that, and the other*; this spiritual sense becomes dimmer, until there comes a time when they cannot remember. Very few people can remember things from age 2 or 3. I don't have any memories of being that age. This shows us the hearts of little children are so moldable, trusting, and pure, we must be careful what we expose them to.

### The Hour Is Come!

Let's turn to John's Gospel, and read his account of the triumphant entry, because it continues beyond what Matthew related. (In our timeline, what we will now read in John 12, follows Matt. 21:16): "*The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how you shall prevail nothing? Behold, the world is gone after him.*" They were referring to the triumphant procession, when all the people were thronging Jesus and saying, "*Hosanna! Save us now!*"—including the little kids. They said, "*What are we going to do? How are we going to prevail against this man—the whole world is going after him!*"

*"And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast, The same came therefore to Philip which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip comes*

*and tells Andrew, and Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come that the Son of Man should be glorified"* (John 12:20-23).

This is so powerful when you understand that Jerusalem was literally packed to the gills with people, because it was the time of the Passover, one of the Jewish feasts when the men were required to come to Jerusalem to worship. Think of the city that hosts the Super Bowl or the Olympic Games. Even if these men had not participated in Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, they would have certainly heard about it. All of this was going on, and the news had already been spreading about how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Now He had just went to the Temple and cleaned it out, and afterwards, opened up blind eyes and healed the lame. *All were buzzing about Jesus!*

So these Greeks—Gentiles came wanting to see Jesus too! As non-Jews, they didn't have a covenant. They were not of the household of faith, nor of the seed of Abraham, but they heard about Jesus. They came to Philip and said, "*Sir, we would see Jesus!*" Phillip didn't know what to do. He probably thought, *That's not allowed; it's not kosher! He is a Jewish rabbi, and you are Gentiles.* But he said, "*I will get right back to you.*" He went to Andrew and said, "*Andrew, do you see those guys over there?*" They would have been dressed completely different, and

would have stood out as Gentiles. Phillip said, *“The group of guys standing over there, those Greeks, came to me saying that they want to see Jesus, and I don’t know what to tell them. What should I you?”* Andrew didn’t know what to tell them either, so together they went to Jesus to see what He would say. They said to Jesus, *“Lord, do you see that group of guys over there? They came to Philip and said, ‘Sir, we would see Jesus.’”* How Jesus responded seems very odd:

*“Now is the hour come when the Son of Man shall be glorified.”* It doesn’t seem like an answer to what they had said. Their request somehow signified to Jesus that the hour had come for Him to be glorified. If you read Jesus’ ministry story during His previous three years, you know that on more than one occasion, when some would try to force Him to do something, He would say, *“My hour is not yet come.”* When they tried to kill Him, He would disappear and say, *“My hour is not yet come.”* He was aware that there was a time frame to God’s plan. He also knew *He was only sent to the lost sheep of Israel* (Mt.15:24). When He sent the disciples out to minister, He told them to only go to the house of Israel. (Mt.10:6). He knew the time would come when there would be a shift in the Spirit; yet over and over, He had that said it was not His time. In a few days, He would go to Gethsemane, the garden of agony. There He would cry out to His Father, say-

ing, *“Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may glorify thee”* (Jn.17:1). Now He knew He was closer to it. The action of Gentiles coming and saying, *“We want to see Jesus”* was a sign to Jesus that things were about to change.

## The Door to the Gentiles

Jesus continued: *“Verily, verily I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone, but if it dies, it brings forth much fruit. He that loves his life shall lose it, and he that hates his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be. If any man serve me, him will my Father honor. Now is my soul troubled, and what shall I say? Father save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name.*

*“Then came there a voice from heaven saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore that stood by and heard it said that it thundered; others said, An angel spoke to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. Now is the judgment of this world: Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This said he signifying what death he should die”* (vv.24-33).

They had asked what to do about these Greeks, and Jesus started talking about His death! His soul was

troubled, because suddenly He was aware that the hour of His suffering was drawing nigh. He knew what the Scriptures said of His sufferings, and just days earlier He had talked with Elijah and Moses on the Mount of Transfiguration when they discussed His decease. (Lk.9:31). His soul was troubled, but He said, *“Am I going to ask my Father to save me from this hour; when for this hour I came into the world?”* When He spoke of a corn of wheat falling into the ground and dying, He was talking about *His death*. It was going to bring forth much fruit, *including Gentile fruit!* He realized that the door to the Gentiles, which until that time was closed, was ready to bust wide open. This was a signal that the shift in the Spirit had come.

## Great Gentiles of Faith

There were a couple occasions when Gentiles with persistent faith had pressed their way through that door. The Syrophenician woman who was also a Greek had come to Jesus, because her daughter was grievously vexed of the devil. She came beseeching Him to deliver her child, and she used the same title she heard Jews use: *“O thou Son of David, have mercy on me, have mercy on my daughter.”* Even though she was a Gentile, she recognized Jesus was the Messiah. She didn’t ask for rights and entitlements; she didn’t have any. She was not of the Jewish nation. She was not a daughter of Abraham. She could not ask for what

God had given them, but she said, *“Have mercy.”* The Lord ignored her for a while, until finally her crying got on the disciples’ last nerve. They didn’t have any compassion for her. They could have come to the Lord and said, *“Lord, do you think that just this one time You can make an exception for this Gentile woman and for her poor daughter who is tormented, and pray for her?”* But they said, *“Lord, make her go away! She keeps crying after us; tell her to go!”*

Jesus said to her, *“I am only sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel, and it is not right for me to give the children’s bread to the dogs.”* This did not offend her one bit. The word *dog* was just a word Jews used to refer to the Gentiles. What He stated what was true, and she replied: *“Truth, Lord... (I don’t dispute that Lord), but even the dogs who sit under their Master’s table are allowed to eat the crumbs that fall on the ground. I am not asking you for a whole loaf of bread, or even a slice. If you will just give me one crumb, my daughter will be made whole.”* Jesus said to her, *“Woman, great is thy faith, and for this saying, go your way, your daughter is made whole”* (Mt.15:21-28). She was a Gentile who had the understanding and faith to say, **“I would see Jesus,”** and went after her miracle.

A Roman centurion, another Gentile, came to Jesus saying that his servant was at home paralyzed and grievously tormented with pain, and he had compassion on his suffering



servant. This was not his father, his brother, his son, but his servant. He had heard about Jesus' miracles and he came to Jesus asking Him to pray for him to be healed. Jesus said, *"I will come and heal him."* But he told Jesus that it was not necessary for Him to come to His house. He said, *"Lord, I am not worthy for you to come under my roof."* He realized it would not be right for a Jewish rabbi to enter into the house of a Gentile; it would make Him ceremonially unclean according to their law. The amazing thing is what he said: *"You don't need to come. All you have to do is speak the word only, and my servant will be made whole."* He explained the reasoning behind this outstanding statement: *"For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. I say to one Go, and he goes; to another, Come, and he comes; to another, Do this, and he does it."* He was under Rome's authority, and if he were to get a message from Rome calling him back, he would pack up and go. He understood authority. This revelation was the secret to his faith.

He understood Jesus had authority over sickness and diseases, and over the demonic powers that put people in these conditions. He understood Jesus executed that authority *when He spoke*. When Jesus told the devil to come out, the devil came out. When Jesus commanded the blind to see, blind eyes were opened. What he was saying was: *"I get it that you have this authority in the supernatu-*

*ral world, and that's why You don't have to physically come to my house. All You have to do is speak, and that supernatural word will immediately be obeyed by the powers of darkness that have my servant suffering."* Jesus said, *"I have never seen such faith; no not in all of Israel"* This was the only time Jesus marveled at a person's faith (Mt.8:5-13).

## A Light to the Gentiles

These were exceptions because these Gentiles would not take *no* for an answer, and God honored their extraordinary faith. But Jesus was not sent to, nor did He go to, Gentile places. Yet now He knows that something has just happened in the Spirit realm, because this group of Greeks wants to see Him. Jesus knew the Scriptures and Isaiah 49:6 said, *"My servant (referring to Messiah) shall raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the preserved of Israel, and I will also"* (in addition to doing this for the Jewish nation) *"will give you for a light to the Gentiles that thou mayest be my salvation unto the ends of the earth."* Jesus came to save the whole world. He didn't just die for Israel. He came to Israel, because God had separated them to give them the law and commandments, and to preserve the truth until the time Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, would come. Jesus came for all. *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life"*

(Jn.3:16). Jesus came to gather the tribes of Jacob, but they wouldn't let Him. He came to restore Israel, but they didn't receive Him. But He also came to be *a light to the Gentiles*, and this prophecy is still being fulfilled.

## Tear Down That Wall!

There was a spiritual wall of partition between Jews and Gentiles, but there was also *a literal wall*. The Temple Herod built was so magnificent, it took 46 years to build. It included a wall that separated the outer court of the Gentiles from the rest of the Temple. There was a sign posted on the wall in both Greek and Latin warning Gentiles not to go beyond that point: *"No man of another nation is to enter. Whosoever does will have himself to blame for his death."* This was the catalyst that resulted in Apostle Paul's arrest, which ended with his going to prison in Rome. His enemies lied and said that he took Trophimus, a Greek, into the Temple, because they saw them together in the city. It started a riot, and they would have killed him if Roman soldiers hadn't rescued him. It was absolutely taboo to allow a Gentile to enter past that wall of separation.

With this in mind, let's read Ephesians 2:11-16: *"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time passed Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye*

*were without Christ, being aliens (strangers) from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

*"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain (Jews & Gentiles) one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain (put to death) the enmity thereby."*

**On the cross, Jesus literally tore down that wall!** The five-foot wall that was in the Temple physically represented the spiritual wall of partition between Gentiles and Jews that existed. As Gentiles, we had no covenant or promises that God made to the seed of Abraham; we had no hope of a Messiah and Savior who came to save His people from their sins. But on the cross, He abolished the enmity that brought the hostility, and prejudice, and bias, that existed between Jews and non-Jews. By the blood of Jesus, there is no more Jew or Greek, because Jesus blotted out the laws that separated us.

*"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female; for ye are all one in Christ. And if ye be*

*Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise"* (Gal.3:38-29). I will add my part: *There is no more black or white—He tore that wall down too!*

Think about this: Even if the Jewish leaders had gone in into the Temple with hammers and knocked that wall down, do you think it would have gotten rid of the inbred animosity, hostility, prejudice, anger, and offenses they had? Do you think knocking down that wall would have fixed that? No, that would not have changed anything, because you first have to *change the hearts*. People have to have a heart transplant.

Jesus had said, *"If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me."* On the cross He was lifted up. We sing the song about *Lift the Saviour Up* by praising Him, and there's nothing wrong with that idea, but in the context, when Jesus said, *"if I be lifted up,"* He meant *lifted up on the cross*. He told Nicodemus that as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness on a pole, so the Son of Man must be lifted up on the cross (Jn.3:14).

### 3 Times God Spoke From Heaven

As Jesus was saying *"the hour is come,"* a voice came out of Heaven. The Father spoke: *"I have glorified it (my name) and will glorify it again."* Some said that it sounded like thunder and others said that an angel spoke, and Jesus said: *"This voice did not come for me, but for your sake."* The other two times God spoke out of Heaven were *for Jesus'*

*sake*. At His baptism by John in the Jordan, God said *"This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased"* (Lk.3:22). Immediately afterwards, He was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days to be tempted by Satan. One of the temptations was, *"If you be the Son of God..."* (Lk.4:3). Jesus knew He was the Son of God—it was the last thing He heard His Father say. The second time on the Mount of Transfiguration, God spoke: *"This is my beloved Son—hear him"* (Lk.9:35). He was talking with Elijah and Moses about His impending death and needed this reassurance that He was in His Father's will.

This third time was for the people standing round. Jesus said, *"It came for you that you might believe that when you see me lifted up on the cross, I will draw —ALL men—Jews, Gentiles, Greeks, Italians, Romans, and whosoever, unto me!"* On the day of Pentecost, there were over 17 ethnicities and many broad groups who believed and were saved, because on the cross, the wall of enmity was torn down. But the people who heard the voice still did not understand what it meant.

*"The people answered him, We have heard out of the law that Christ (Messiah) abides forever: and how can you say, The Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"* (v.34). Their meaning: *The law says Messiah is eternal, and yet you're telling us that He's going to be crucified; He's going to be lifted up on the*

*cross—how does this agree with the law? Jesus said: “Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come upon you. For he that walks in darkness knows not whither he goes. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may be the children of the light.” (v.35).*

He said in the Sermon on the Mount: *“Ye are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in Heaven” (Mt.5:3-16).* This is what the Jews were called to be to the rest of the world, but they failed as a nation.

Saints, this is where the Church is today. We have to let our light shine in such a way that people come up to us and say, *“I want to see your Jesus!”* Till they are drawn to us to say: *“Can I come to church with you? Will you tell me more about Jesus?”* So that on the job, they try to get you off to the side, or corner you in the bathroom, and say, *“Tell me more about your Jesus.”*

**This world needs to see more of Jesus.** *They don't need to see the Right Reverend, or Apostle Wonderful, or Bishop Bountiful—they need to see Jesus.* All of these offices and titles that men have created take the focus off of Jesus, and at the end of the day, not one of us can do anything without Him! He is the Savior! He is the Redeemer!

Lord, give us the trusting heart of a child that sings, *“Jesus loves me,*

*this I know, for the Bible tells me so.”*

It's all about Him! Because all the programs that are so popular in churches today eventually run their course and often fizzle out. Because it's the message of the cross; it's the focus on Jesus the Savior that makes the eternal difference. Some churches can give nice little platitudes and heartwarming stories, but for sinners who have been on drugs, for those who are demon possessed, for those whose lives are totally destroyed by Satan, they need somebody that has the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus, to set them free. Not only that, once you set them free, you have to keep them free; otherwise, they will get seven times worse and become more the children of the devil. I'm not against programs that help people get on their feet, help them get jobs, get educated, and get a break in life, but they all must work in conjunction with the power of God.

*This world needs to see Jesus,* not religion. People are up to their necks in religion. Religion makes some want to puke. They don't have anything nice to say about Christians. Now, if they lie on us for Jesus' sake, we are fulfilling what Jesus said in Scripture, (Mt.5:10-12), but if they talk bad about us, and it's not a lie, we are a reproach to the name of the Lord and put a stumbling block in front of people.

They need to see Jesus, because America is in a terrible condition spiritually. Today's racial problems

are not going to be solved with protests and sit-ins, and marches and meetings. All these do is stir up people's emotions and generate more division. If we are going to do these, we need to do them in a way that points them to the answer—not the problem. Prejudices are so deeply rooted in the hearts of people. Many have been tainted from little children up with the ugly seeds of racism. We have taught our children not to trust the other side. Even Christians don't trust *the other side*—don't trust what they say.

America was stained by slavery. It's been over 100 years since the abolishment of slavery, but the stain of slavery is still deep in the hearts of people. *The only thing that will cleanse it is in the blood of Jesus.* Nobody can go back and make right what was wrong. No one can change it. No more than you and I can go back in our own sinful pasts and undo our sins. We may say, "*If I had it to do over again, I wouldn't have done this or that,*" but we can't. But while we can't go back and undo the sinful past, I am so glad to know: "*What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*" When He washes away the sin, He washes away the guilt and the shame.

The only way to uproot those deeply set roots in the hearts of Americans at large, is for them to have a change of heart. The only way to get a changed heart is a spiritual rebirth. When you were a sinner, if you are African-American, you prob-

ably couldn't stand some white people. If you are white, you may have been raised with prejudice against black people. But once you are saved, it should be different. I am very blessed, because my grandmother was saved before I was born, and my dad got saved when I was one year old, so I went to Pentecostal churches that were mixed from a little kid. I never had all that garbage sown into my young spirit, but I know that's not the case for many others. Regardless, those things that were in your heart before, now that you are born again and a part of the body of Christ, have been baptized into Christ, *there is no more Jew nor Gentile, male or female, bond or free, black or white or any other ethnic division.* We love one another wholeheartedly as *the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit* (Rom.5:5).

It is imperative that we sow the right seeds into the hearts of our children. We have to show our kids and young people Jesus' love between the races. All we can do for adults who are prejudiced is pray for them that Jesus will change their hearts. But we can still affect and influence the little ones coming up. As Christians, we need to live godly and holy, and uphold Scripture without compromise, but we don't need to be mean-spirited, and combative about differences, because this turns people off. If you get caught up in the arguments of both sides, you will take on the wrong spirit, and this causes damage

to be done. *You have to keep bringing them back to Jesus.*

## The Best Salesperson for Jesus

We need to be the best salesmen we can be for Jesus. A good salesman can sell you anything, make you buy something you don't even need, because he knows his product inside and out. He knows the fine print. Any question you ask him—boom—he's got the answer! He'll tell you all about it. He'll convince you that his is the best product you could ever buy for what you need it for. He will assure you there is not a better product on the market anywhere at any price. When you say, *"I want to check out Brand A or Brand B,"* he will say, *"I want you to check it out, because after you check it out, you will find that this deal I am giving you blows them away."*

When you are a good salesman for Jesus, you tell the people in the world: *"I've got the best product you could ever have! It will change your life; it will give you a new heart, heal your mind, your body, your soul, and your spirit, and deliver you from every bondage."*

If they say, *"Well, I want to check into this other religion, because they claim that they are the right way,"* you can say: *"Go ahead and check them out; read all about it, and check out what they promise you. See if they can promise you eternal life, and you don't have to buy it, and there are no strings attached. All you have to do is receive a free gift. I*

*want you to check it out, because when you do, you are going to say that there is not a better deal in all the world!"*

We need to rise up as Christians in America and preach Christ. We need to be so full of God's love and joy and peace that they say, *"I want to know more about your faith."* We need to teach our little children: *"Jesus loves the little children of the world: red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."* I pray God will make every one of us a firebrand plucked from the fires of the Holy Ghost that will make us stand up for Jesus, so they too cry out, *"We would see Jesus!"*