

THE HIGH COST OF RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE

Text: Luke 9:51-56

INTRO: Our text tells the story of a village that rejected Jesus. It will be to our advantage to consider their action & its consequences -- the high cost of religious prejudice.

I. JESUS & HIS APOSTLES WERE REJECTED BECAUSE OF RELIGIOUS PREJUDICE, vs. 51-53.

- A. The Samaritans were sure they didn't need Jesus & His Jewish religion. They had a temple & a system of worship of their own.

NOTE: On an earlier occasion when Jesus had passed thru Samaria He had spoken with a Samaritan woman who had noted the differences between the religion of the Jews & that of the Samaritans. "Our fathers worshipped on this mountain; & you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship" (John 4:20).

- B. The prejudice between Jews & Samaritans extended to social matters as well as spiritual matters, vs. 52-53.

Jews have no dealings with Samaritans (John 4:9).

II. THE RESPONSE OF JAMES & JOHN TO THE PROBLEM, vs. 54-56.

- A. This passage probably gives us some insight as to why Jesus nicknamed them "Sons of Thunder," Mark 3:17.
- B. There is always a temptation to stoop to carnal weapons & tools even when the basic differences are spiritual.

For tho we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal... (2 Cor. 10:3-4).

- C. All such carnal tools tend to detract from, rather than aid

the cause of Christ.

1. Negative: social, economic pressures, job threats, nagging, intimidation, etc.
2. Positive: entertainment, recreation, bait of various kinds, etc.

III. THE RESULT OF THE SAMARITANS' PREJUDICE, vs. 56b.

A. There was no immediate punishment -- no fire from heaven to devour them on the spot.

B. But the blessings that could have been theirs were forfeited. JESUS WENT AWAY. We have no way of knowing what blessings might have been theirs if they had not rejected Him.

1. Their sick might have been healed.
2. Sinners would have found forgiveness.
3. Some might have been raised from the dead.
4. Multitudes might have been miraculously fed.
5. Other blessings, spiritual & temporal might have been theirs, but they flung them all away...

C. Jesus went to ANOTHER village. The Greek word means another of a different kind -- probably a Jewish village.

D. It was on this occasion & in this context that Jesus said, "Foxes have holes & birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head" ((vs. 58).

E. This unknown Samaritan village rejected Jesus -- and received no immediate punishment. But there will be an eventual reckoning. There always is.

READ LUKE 10:10-15.

Let both grow together until the harvest & at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather together the tares & bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn" (Matt. 13:30).

IV. SPIRITUAL APPLICATION.

Jesus wants to enter our village, our homes, our hearts,
Rev. 3:20.

A. Some are prejudiced & self satisfied, as many were during
Jesus' earthly ministry: scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees,
Samaritans, Nazarenes, even His own fam. John 1:11.

B. Some insist that they are just too busy to think about Christ
right now, don't want to get involved. Maybe later...

READ LUKE 9:59-62.

CONCLUSION: God will tug at your heart for a while. You may have
trouble sleeping for a few nights. Your conscience may jolt you for some
time to come -- but eventually, Jesus will go away & leave you alone -- till
the final judgment. Then one more time you will face the gospel you
rejected -- & having chosen darkness rather than light, you will be cast
into outer darkness forever, where there will be weeping & gnashing of
teeth.

Exton, PA, November 24, 1985

Shively, Louisville, KY, December, 1985 (meeting)

Exton, PA, February 24, 1991

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, May 3, 1998

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, July 14, 2002