

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

March 1, 2009

Jesus was a scoundrel

by David King

And I can prove it from the Scriptures. To wit:

"Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!" (Matt. 11:19).

"We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to pay taxes to Caesar" (Lk. 23:2).

"This man blasphemes!" (Matt. 9:3).

"He is out of His mind" (Mk. 3:21).

In fact, the Bible portrays Jesus as such an evil snake that it declares flatly concerning Him, "He is deserving of death" (Matt. 26:66).

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to recognize instantly the error I have committed here. These quotes are restricted to the accusations of Jesus' **enemies**, men who were out to destroy Him. (The exception is the "out of His mind" statement. That was the opinion of His own family, spoken from ignorance, not hate.) All of these charges were highly prejudicial and one-sided. It is a gross misrepresentation of history to try to pass this testimony off as the truth about who Jesus was.

Yes, Jesus was a scoundrel — if we listened only to His critics. But if we take the time to listen to the Man Himself, and the testimony of others who knew Him well, we come away with an entirely different opinion.

But therein lies the problem, doesn't it? Before we can form a well-rounded opinion of someone, we have to be careful to hear all sides of the story. We cannot afford to simply pick up whatever snippets of hearsay are being tossed about to base our conclusion upon. We need to listen not only to a man's critics, but

also to his friends. If possible, our own interactions with a man can contribute a great deal to our understanding of his character. Regarding Jesus, this kind of balanced evaluation has led millions of people to conclude that He was anything but a scoundrel.

This simple exercise in biblical hermeneutics teaches us two important lessons in dealing with people.

First, before we charge someone with gross error, we need to carefully examine our own motives in doing so. Are we genuinely interested in promoting the truth, or are we merely out to "get" an enemy? Are we presenting a balanced picture, or are we withholding key information that would significantly alter the story, if it was known? In short, are we being honest with the facts ourselves?

Second, when we hear serious charges being spoken against someone, we should resist accepting it as truth until we have had an opportunity to examine the matter ourselves. Salacious accusations are almost always exaggerated and inaccurate. "The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him" (Prov. 18:17). If we take pains to hear both sides, we will come much closer to learning the truth of a matter.

Oh, one more lesson can be learned from this little study. Just because someone quotes a lot of Scripture doesn't necessarily prove he is teaching the truth. The conclusion being promoted may not be what God intends. We must search the scriptures ourselves, to find out if these things are so (Ac. 17:11).