

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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THE REAL JESUS

Without question the majority of people in the world, because they really have no working knowledge of Scripture, have absolutely no idea about the true character of Jesus. Even a casual, honest reading of the various gospel accounts clearly demonstrates that Jesus was not one who was some sort of “namby-pamby” preacher who watered down the message to suit the masses. Jesus did not serve up cotton candy and tickle ears. Jesus did not worry about whether or not pointed lessons might offend people. Instead, what Jesus did do, time and again, was speak the truth and speak it plainly. Consider the following examples from Matthew:

- Once He began to preach, the first word He said was, “Repent” (4:17).
- He referred to the scribes and Pharisees as hypocrites, who were glory hounds (5:20; 6:5).
- He referred to some as dogs and some as swine and ravening wolves (7:6, 15).
- “Let the dead bury their dead” is pretty clear (8:22).
- He told the religious leaders of that day that they better go back to Bible class (9:11-13).
- He said He came to bring a sword and set folks at variance one with the other (10:34-35).
- He said that those who love any earthly treasure more than Him would perish (10:37-39).
- He plainly said many were fault finders who were never happy (11:16-19).
- He upbraided entire cities (11:20ff).
- He said that those who were not “with Him” were His enemies (12:30).
- He called religious fakers an evil generation of vipers (12:34).
- He said the wicked would be cast into the furnace of fire (13:49-50).

On and on we could go. Keep investigating the matter for yourself. If you will do so, certainly you will discover that while our Lord was kind, he certainly was not a sissy. Yes, to the honest student of the Bible it is so very obvious that Jesus “laid it on the line,” and “told it like it was” time after time.

Let me ask you a question. Where are such men today? Where are they? Where are those who care more about the souls of men than the praise of men? Where are those today who will not step back from calling sin, sin? Where are those who use plain speech and thus follow in the steps of Jesus?

Save for a very faithful few, I know of none.

Brethren, we are in the fight of our lives (Ephesians 6:12). Souls are hanging in the balance. Eternity is forever, and hell will be oh so horrible.

So many congregations across the land need to wake up! This is no time for polished platitudes, generalities, and jokes to come floating down from pulpits and sounding forth in classrooms. What we really need are real men who will dare to be like the real Jesus and tell the people plainly the truth about things.

Now do not get it twisted, I am not suggesting that we be mean spirited or that we try to “run folks off.” What I am saying is that when people prefer a modern day Elmer Gantry over a real life gospel preacher something is wrong... something is really wrong.