

Contend For the Faith

Session 6: The Truth Shall be Evil Spoken of

2Pe 2:2 way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Jud 1:10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not. . .

Why did so many people come against Jesus? They did not know the Father the way Jesus did!

***1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. **17** Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

The message that Jesus brought to the people was different than the message of the religious leaders in his day was. Jesus claimed to be one with his father. He brought His Father's message of love to the people. Jesus approached the people with mercy and compassion and brought the kingdom to the people. He lifted their burdens and set them free. Great crowds of people followed him everywhere he went. **Matthew 9:35-36, Luke 4:18**

The Pharisees, on the other hand, preached a message of law that bound the people with heavy burdens that prevented both themselves and the people that they ministered to from entering into the things of the kingdom. **Matthew 23:4,13**

Jesus was persecuted and crucified by the religious leaders because of the position that he held with His father and because they did not have a revelation of the message that he taught. They were jealous of His following.

In spite of the opposition that He faced, Jesus did not

compromise his message because He knew His Father!

Joh 15:20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. **Joh 15:21** But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.

When we begin to teach the message of unconditional love, we too can expect opposition from the religious leaders of our day. **Jude** and **2 Peter 1-2** tell us to earnestly contend for the faith because there will be people among us who have unknowingly turned back to the ways of the law. The opposition comes because they are defending the way that seems right unto them and we appear to be opposing the truth.

1John 4:17 *Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.*

We are like Jesus in this world. We are the ones that are in the position that Jesus was in when he walked this earth. We are Jesus to the world we live in as we proclaim God's love to the people we come in contact with. **John 15:9**

We are told to have boldness in the day of judgement. When is the day of judgement and who does that judgement come from? According to Strong's concordance, the time that defines when "the day" occurs is always associated with the context in which it is used. When is that day of judgement and what is the context in which it was used? This scripture is surrounded by scriptures referring to loving our brother. **1John 4:1-16**

1Jn 4:10 *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11** Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. **14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. **15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God,*

*God dwelleth in him, and he in God. **16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwells in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*

Who is judging or accusing us? Again, the scripture is written in context of the relationship we have with our brothers. Jesus was judged by those around him. He was never moved from the message of love that He came to deliver. He had boldness in the day he was persecuted and was crucified because He knew His Father. He simply said, "Father, forgive them for they don't know what they do!"

John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. **19** We love him, because he first loved us.*

We have been instructed to unconditionally love others the way that God has loved us. When we do, it shows that we truly know our Father.

1John 4:20 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? **21** And this commandment have we from him, That he who loves God love his brother also.*

Earnestly contend for the faith delivered unto us! We too will be judged in the same manner as Jesus was by those among us who do not have the same revelation of God's love and provision. Have compassion on them and treat them with respect. When we love others the way that he loved us, his love is perfected in us. We can only have boldness in the day that others come against when we are secure in the love that the Father has for us.

Mark 9:50 KJV *Salt is good: but if the salt (**being secure in love**) have lost his saltness, wherewith will ye season it? Have salt in yourselves, and have peace one with another*

Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees! It leaches the salt out of the earth. The Pharisees offend and are offended because love to

them is conditional! They don't understand that they have been sanctified by God and preserved in Jesus.

Only love can initiate love! When you are offended, or you offend others, STOP; it is a sign that you need to contend for the faith once delivered unto you. Our judgment or the salt that we salt the earth with is to refer every offense and everyone caught in the power of an offense to Gods overcoming power through love. He has promised to provide everything. Remind yourself. Remind others! Meeting conditions does not produce love. Love initiates love.