

Jesus...Mistaken, Misunderstood, Misread

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. **Slide#2 Pastor Saeed Abedini:** Iranian-born American Pastor Saeed Abedini has been imprisoned in Tehran since Sept, and in a letter to his family reported **beatings** and **death threats**.
1. The letter details his continued mistreatment in the deadly **Evin Prison**, including Iran's efforts to force him to convert from Christianity back to Islam. Pastor Saeed writes: *"After all of these pressures, after all of the **nails** they have pressed against my hands and feet, they are only waiting for one thing...for me to **deny Christ**."* Yet he is standing strong, declaring "they will never get this from me." Now is the time to redouble our efforts to save this courageous pastor, this U.S. citizen, from the darkness of an Iranian prison.
 - a) **Slide#3** Help ACLJ.org get to 300,000 signatures before our attorneys meet with U.N. Human Rights officials on March 5.
 - (1) Last week, more than 80 members of Congress - in a strong bi-partisan move – sent a letter to **Secretary of State Kerry** urging him to *"exhaust every possible option to secure Mr. Abedini's immediate release."* Kerry has not responded to a congressional letter asking that he call for his release.
 - b) **Steve Keeney & Saeed's sister ZeZe** will be in the **info booth today** if you would like to sign up for 1 day in prayer for her brother.
- B. **Prayer:** That Saeed will even more intimately **know** You. Have the **power** of Your Res. And experience the **fellowship** of Your sufferings.
1. **Father** our desire is to **dwell** in Your **presence**; **listen** to Your **voice**; **see** Your **beauty**; be **touched** by Your **Word**; **taste** Your infinite **goodness**.

II. Slide#4 **Intro:**

- A. **Slide#5 Illust:** The following series of advertisements reportedly appeared in a daily newspaper:
1. **Slide#6 Monday:** "The Rev. A.J. Jones has one color TV set for sale. Telephone 626–1313 after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Donnelley who lives with him, cheap."
 2. **Slide#7 Tuesday:** "We regret any embarrassment caused to Rev. Jones by a typographical error in yesterday's paper. The ad should have read: 'The Rev. A.J. Jones has one color TV set for sale, cheap...Telephone 626–1313 and ask for Mrs. Donnelley, who lives with him after 7 p.m.'"
 3. **Slide#8 Wednesday:** "The Rev. A.J. Jones informs us that he has received several annoying telephone calls because of an incorrect ad in yesterday's paper. It should have read: 'The Rev. A.J. Jones has one color TV set for sale, cheap. Telephone 626–1313, after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Donnelley who loves with him.'"

4. **Slide#9 Thursday:** “Please take notice that I, the Rev. A.J. Jones, have no color TV set for sale; I have smashed it. Don’t call 626–1313 anymore. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Donnelley. She was, until yesterday, my housekeeper.”
5. **Slide#10 Friday:** “Wanted: a housekeeper. Usual housekeeping duties. Good pay. Love in, Rev. A.J. Jones. Telephone 626–1313.”
 - a) **Mistakes** are inevitable in the publishing business. [while funny here, not funny in reg life]
 - b) Jesus was often *Mistaken, Misunderstood & Misread*, which will be this morning **Outline**.

III. Slide#11 **MISTAKEN (Ministry) (20,21)**

- A. (20) Tie in to 19b.
- B. (21) **When His own people heard about this. Heard about what? Him not eating!**
 1. **Slide#12a They did love him...but**, they thought He was a little bit **fanatical**. Kind of...well...crazy. Fixated w/faith. Over-enthusiastic.
 2. I think His diagnosis today would be “**obsessive-compulsive**”.
 - a) **He is out of His mind** - Messiah complex?
 3. **Slide#12b** I believe this “**family intervention**” is what they really thought would be **best** for Him.
 - a) **He’s throwing away security & safety...we must take charge of him!** - A well-meaning, but **mistaken** action!
 4. **They thought...This religious fervor was going to ruin His health!**
 - a) Think of the reports they received last week...**where that He almost got trampled...He even had to have a get-away boat!!!** [family just traveled 25 m. from Naz]
 - (1) **Slide#12c Jesus don’t you know, you could lose your life doing this!**
 - b) **1st** He gave up a decent career in the carpentry union! – **Then**, look at the posse He’s running with. – **We hear** He sometimes stay up all night, w/no sleep! – **And**, He seems to be given to **extremes!** *It’s ok to be devout, but NOT fanatical!*
 5. **Jn.7:1-9** tells us that Jesus’ brothers were still not believing in Him, even later in His ministry.
- C. These guys became the model for those who hold the **charitable opinion**, “Jesus was a **good man, even a great man, but He is just mistaken about who He is & what His mission is!**”
 1. **Slide#12d But what is “good”, or “great”, or “wonderful” about a man who lies?** (i.e. if He’s **not** the Son of God?) **That, as C.S.Lewis would say, “Is just patronizing nonsense!”**
 2. He **is the Son of God**, or **else** He’s **the devil himself** to claim such a claim & not be Him!

- D. If **you've** been ever accused of being a **Jesus freak**, or **too fanatical**, or even **mad...no worries...**so was Paul, **Now as he thus made his defense**, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are **beside yourself!** Much learning is driving you **mad!** (Acts 26:24)
1. They thought *Luther, Bunyan, Whitefield, & Wesley* were **mad**.
 2. **If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** (Jn.15:19)
- E. Jesus was *Mistaken* in His Ministry!

IV. Slide#13 **MISUNDERSTOOD (Power) (22-30)**

- A. And now the **Scribes** turn up the heat!
- B. The famous ACLU Trial Lawyer **Clarence Darrow** said (Bobby Franks Trial & the Scopes *Monkey* Trial), "I have suffered from being **misunderstood**, but I would have suffered a lot more if I had been **understood.**"
1. Though I don't like this comparison, I wonder if **Jesus** would have said the same?
 - a) What if they really **understood** Him as *GOD in their midst?*
 2. **Or** as Ralph Waldo Emerson, "To be great is to be misunderstood."
 3. You *also* know what it's like to be *misunderstood!*
- C. Slide#14a (22) **Beelzebub**, the Philistine god of flies.
1. Was changed to *Beelzebul*, "*god of dung*", and was used in a shameful way as a name of the devil.
 2. Others prefer to derive the word from baal zebul, the "*lord of the dwelling*" in which evil spirits dwell.
 - a) The fact that Jesus designates Himself as "master of the house" would seem to indicate that *Beelzebul* had a similar meaning.
- D. Slide#14b (22b) **Note:** They **couldn't** & **didn't** deny his exorcisms. "...He casts out demons".
1. In **Mt.12:22-24** Jesus just healed a man that was *demon-possessed, blind & mute*.
 - a) So the issue became, by **what power** He did it?
 - b) NLT, He's possessed by Satan, the prince of demons. That's where he gets the power to cast out demons. [which makes about as much sense as *a dog biting his own tail!*]
- E. Slide#14c (23) Jesus answers with **logic-extraordinaire!**
1. Here He drops **3 sticks of dynamite** to explode their argument!
 2. He proves how illogical this is:
 3. **If a kingdom** (24) We call this **civil war**. A nation won't last if it continues in this!
 4. **If a house** (25) This is just as true **domestically**. Internal division tears a family apart

5. **If Satan** (26) Even the Devil knows his household must be **united**. He can't be divided against himself.
- F. **Slide#14d** (27) Now Jesus tells them exactly what just went on: [He uses a parable]
- The strong man** is Satan. - **His house** is the kingdom which he dominates here on earth. - **His possessions** are the helpless victims whom he holds in bondage through his demons. - **Now Jesus has bound him so that people can be set free!** (1 Jn.3:8)
- G. Believer, good news. **Satan is like a dog on God's leash.**
- Ever walk by someone's property where a dog is lying?** Then he springs up & runs at you full speed, & at the last minute you realize he's **chained** & running out of slack quickly, **then wham!**
 - Col.2:15 NIV **And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.**
 - Also remember, **don't give place to the devil** (Eph.4:27)
 - Some Christians** see where the rut in the ground is & **often** get as close as they can to it! - **Some Christians** actually **take walks in his yard!!!** - **No, don't give him any place.**
- H. **Slide#15a THE UNPARDONABLE SIN!** (28-30)
- I. **Even many of the un-churched have heard of this warning!** But let's not pass up one of the most wonderful & beautiful truth's in all the bible...**Slide#15b all sins (& blasphemies) will be forgiven the sons of men!**
- So let's hold off on the "**ONE**" that **can't** be forgiven!
 - Murder?** (check, ask Moses, David, Paul); **Sexual immorality?** (check, ask Judah w/ Tamar); **Drunkenness?** (check, ask Noah, & Lot); **Denying Christ?** (check, Peter).
 - And** let's not forget **Manasseh** who in 2 Chron.29:6 said, **He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. [yet, God forgave him]**
 - Anyone's sins guiltier than this list?** (& that was a *partial* list!)
 - Oh what wonderful forgiveness we find in Jesus!
 - 1 Jn.1:7 **and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.**
- J. **Slide#15c** Ok, let's deal with the Blaspheme of the H.S.!
- It is not...**cursing the H.S.; **it is not** taking of the Lord's name in vain; **it's not** calling Jesus demon possessed.
 - It is very simply** "the *ongoing, continual* rejection of the witness of the H.S. to the divinity & Saviorhood of Christ."
 - It is not** an ignorant blasphemer, **but instead** one who has **heard, thought about, & rejected** the Spirits loving tugs upon their heart.

- a) Isaiah described them well, they are those who have perverted all truth in their lives & they “call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”
- 4. So, this unforgivable sin is a deliberate & knowing rejection of Christ. It is **not** an isolated act **but** a willful attitude. It is **not** a sin that can be committed accidentally or knowingly. It is **rather** an **indifference** to sin, a cynical **rejection** of the grace of God
 - a) To which God has *no other invitation!*
 - b) It is **dangerous** to hear the gospel & **turn it down**. To hear of Christ’s love & **turn it down**. To hear of forgiveness & **turn it down...over & over again**.
- 5. These Scribes were *on the brink* of committing this very sin.
- 6. **If you** are worried that you’ve committed it...then you obviously haven’t! (i.e. you wouldn’t be worried about it!)
 - a) **You’d have** no interest in **Jesus**, no interest in **church**, or in **any spiritual matters!**
- K. Jesus was *Mistaken* in His Ministry & *Misunderstood* with His Power!

V. Slide#16 **MISREAD (Family) (31-35)**

- A. Slide#17a (33) Jesus **wasn’t severing** family ties.
 - 1. On the cross he was very concerned about **His mother!**
 - 2. **Later**, His ½ brother **James** would be the leader in the Jerusalem church. His ½ brother **Jude** would write his book!
 - 3. **He meant**, there is a **deeper kinship** than flesh & blood, a **spiritual** kinship which is characterized by *obedience to the Father!*
 - a) Of course **obedience** doesn’t *originate* relationship w/God (**faith** does that) **but obedience** is a **sign of it!** (Kent Hughes)
 - 4. Jesus describes **the New family**, which is far superior to the human family...**for it lasts longer** (eternal); it’s **stronger**; it’s more **satisfying**.
 - a) The highest relationships of life are **spiritual**, not physical.
 - b) **You’ve witnessed this**. You meet someone. You find out they are born-again. You talk about Christ, ministry, His love. And you sense that warm wonderful feeling of “family”!
 - c) **Do you have more in common with your spiritual family than w/your earthly family?**
- B. **God is pro family!** – Yet, we are presently watching the *disintegration of the family* melt right before us, even in the Church.
 - 1. Slide#17b **We witness 2 extremes**: The Lack of Love for your family; **and** The Worship of family (*aka domestic idolatry*).
 - 2. [1] **Lack of love!** Sociologist tell us that in the last couple decades the American nuclear family (A family unit consisting of a mother and father & their children) has been disintegrating

& is accelerating at a rapid rate. **It has to change**; no complex society has ever survived w/o a nuclear family!

a) Margaret Mead, U.S. anthropologist. Quoted in: *New Realities* (June 1978). “Nobody has ever before asked the nuclear family to live all by itself in a box the way we do. With no relatives, no support, we’ve put it in an impossible situation.”

3. [2] **The worship of family!** Jesus warned, “**He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.**”

a) We must **love & obey** God 1st !

C. (34) He looked around at those seated around him. Mt. adds he gestured w/his hand... “**and said, Here are my mother & brothers.**”

1. There are ties that are even deeper & stronger now...**the Kingdom Family!**

2. To which all those to whom **obey** God belong.

3. So, it’s **not** being in a **National** family (Jews); **not** being in a **Natural** family (His mother & brothers); **but in** a spiritual or **Supernatural** family.

D. Jesus was **Mistaken** in His Ministry; **Misunderstood** with His Power; & **Misread** regarding His Family!

E. **Slide#18a** Note the **insiders & the outsiders**.

1. Jesus & His disciples went **Inside** the house(19); His own family was **Outside** (20). Again in vs.31 His family comes again & are **standing Outside**; and the crowds say it again, Your family is **outside**(32); **No, My family** is **Inside** sitting around me in a circle.

2. **Jesus went Outside** for you to get **Inside!**

a) Mark 1:45, the **Leper** could now go **Inside** the city (being healed) **so that Jesus could no longer openly enter** the city, but was **outside** in deserted places.

b) Heb.13:12 **Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside** the gate. He died **outside** so we could come **Inside!**

c) Jesus cried, **My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me...**so you could cry, ***Our Father who art in heaven.*** And so you could cry, ***Abba, Father!***

3. **Will you humble yourself and come and sit as Jesus feet?**

a) Isn’t that a whole lot better than, “*try harder; do more; stop that; you don’t measure up; do it better.*” Isn’t it a whole lot better to hear, “*Believe in Jesus Christ; just sit at His feet; learn of Him; take Him for who He is; accept His ministry...& you will become an Insider!*”

4. Slide#18b Picture Jesus saying this wee verse, “One door & only one, yet its sides are **two**;
I am on the **Inside** on which side are **you**?”