

Would You Want This Man To Be Your Preacher?

Whenever a man is "looked" at to preach for a congregation, he is examined closely. The members of the church may judge him on where he went to school, the way he dresses, his personality, who he knows, where he has preached before, how long he was there, etc. Of course, his teaching is a part of their evaluation. Different Christians and congregations have different attitudes about this. Some want a man to "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2). Others want him to tickle their ears (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

Below is a list of things one preacher is reported to have done.

1. Called his audience liars and children of the devil.
2. Referred to well-known, well-liked and prominent brethren as hypocrites and snakes.
3. Became angry and damaged the property of some who gathered at a church building.
4. Said things and chose words he knew would offend the audience and ended up running off many of them.
5. When one of his closest friends was seeking to help him, called his friend Satan.
6. Refused to help a woman until pressed to do so.
7. Answered a question with a question and then refused to talk anymore about the issue.
8. Told men who were well educated in the Bible, they did not know what they were talking about.
9. Made a congregation so mad by his words that they ran him out of town and tried to kill him.
10. Taught that men and women must hate their families.
11. Refused to give food to those who asked him for it.
12. Said that some Christians made him want to puke.

No doubt, you recognize this person as Jesus. The references are:

1. John 8:44
2. Matthew 23:13, 33.
3. John 2:13-17.
4. Matthew 15:7-14; John 6:53-54, 60, 66.
5. Matthew 16:21-23.
6. Mark 7:24-30.

7. Luke 20:1-8.
8. Matthew 22:23-33.
9. Luke 4:16-30.
10. Luke 14:26.
11. John 6:25-27.
12. Revelation 3:15-17.

The sad thing is many, if not most, brethren would not tolerate this from a preacher today. They consider a public, scathing rebuke of sin, specifically identifying the one or ones in error, as humiliating to the church and beneath "Christian character." These are the ones who look for a local preacher who will "speak...smooth things" (Isa. 30:10). The same goes for men they ask to hold meetings. They will adamantly affirm they want the truth, but it must be either positive or generically negative. If anyone is to be condemned it is the "radicals" who are splitting the church into a thousand pieces (cf. Isa. 5:20).

So, what about you, would you want Jesus to be your preacher?

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