

JESUS IN CONTROVERSY

Int.

1. Aim: To show how Jesus handled himself amidst religious controversy and what lessons we can learn for today.
2. Luke 2:46-47 "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."
3. Many have a mistaken idea about the character of Jesus.
 - a. They think of Him as being soft, easy going, never saying anything to disturb or offend others, never stepping on toes and never in controversy.
 - b. If so then why was he crucified?
 - c. Jesus was involved in religious controversy from the time he started his public ministry until he died on the cross.
 - d. "Jesus drew his sword on the banks of the Jordan and threw away the scabbard."
 - (1) Sword of conflict with those who teach religious error
 - (2) Banks of Jordan - time he began his public ministry
 - (3) Scabbard - the holder was no longer needed - the fight would never end.
4. Jesus was involved in religious controversy
 - a. Over 30 different controversies recorded.
 - b. We can learn many valuable truths from these. - will notice 3 of them

Discussion

I. TEMPTATION - Matt. 4:1-11 Luke 4:1-13

- A. Disputants - Jesus and the Devil - Jesus had fasted for 40 days and nights
- B. Points at Issue
 - 1. Turn stones to bread - satisfy hunger
 - 2. Cast self down from temple - angels protect
 - 3. Worship Satan - receive world
- C. Resolved by Jesus
 - 1. It is written - O.T. scriptures quoted
 - 2. Again it is written - Heb.4:15 tempted and resisted
- D. Lessons we can learn:
 - 1. **Jesus left us an example = always do God's will no matter what the cost.**
 - a. Luke 9:23-24 - deny self.
 - b. Luke 14:26-33 - hate own life also
 - c. Rev. 2:10 - be faithful even unto the point of death
 - 2. **Proper way to resist temptation = "IT IS WRITTEN"**
 - a. Love God and his word above everything else- Matt.22:37-40
 - b. Psalms 119:11 - "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
 - 3. **No person is above temptation**
 - a. Jesus was not above it
 - b. I Pet. 5:8 - adversary the devil
 - c. We have the same basic temptation in principle - I Jn. 2:15-17 [lust of flesh, lust of eye, and vainglory of life]

4. Temptation may come at weakest point

- a. All have weaknesses and strengths - devil knows our weaknesses
- b. II Cor. 13:5 - examine our strengths and weaknesses
- c. Prayer- confession and strength

5. A Way of escape is always provided

- a. I Cor. 10:13
- b. Situation ethics says chose sin #1 or sin #2
- c. God says choose - either to sin or to do right. We are not forced to follow the way of escape.
- d. But God promises that there is a way of doing the right thing!!
- e. Jesus was set to resist the temptation not to yield.

6. Greatest time of temptation is often after conversion

- a. Just after baptism of Jesus - beginning his public ministry
- b. Many fall away immediately after baptism
- c. The devil makes an all out drive to get them
- d. Luke 8:13 "...in time of temptation fall away." - parable of sower

7. Purpose of temptation

- a. Try - test - prove us - then Jesus started his ministry.
- b. James 1:12
- c. We are stronger - for better greater service

II. MARRIAGE - DIVORCE - REMARRIAGE - Matt. 19:3-9, Mark 10:2-12

- A. Disputants - Pharisees and Jesus = they try to tempt Jesus and trap him
- B. Issues
 - 1. Is it lawful for a man to put away for every cause?
 - a. Two schools of Thought:
 - (1) Hillel - any cause
 - (2) Shammai - only adultery
 - b. They were asking Jesus which was correct.
 - 2. Why did Moses command to give a writing of divorcement to put her away?
 - a. Deut. 24:1 - Uncleaness= KJV, Unseemly=ASV
 - b. Trying to trap Jesus
- C. Resolved by Jesus
 - 1. Have ye not read
 - a. Quoted Gen. 1:27, 2:24
 - b. They have become one flesh - leave parents
 - c. God has joined them and do not let man put them asunder
 - 2. Moses because of hardness of heart
 - a. Suffered you to put away your wives
 - (1) It was not a command but it was allowed
 - (2) God saw fit to allow this for a while
 - (3) It was allowed because of the hardness of their heart
 - b. From the beginning - creation - it was not so
 - (1) It has been God's will that husband and wife live together until death
 - (2) God never intended for men and women to divorce and remarry

- c. Allowed for protection of women - people in slavery - not the respect for women in East - divorce forbidden would have caused abuse and murder.

3. Jesus Statement - v. 9

- a. Put away only for fornication - physically unfaithful
- b. Any other cause is unscriptural
- c. Marry another = adultery
- d. Woman marry another = adultery

D. Lessons we can learn:

1. **MARRIAGE IS BASIC TO GOD'S PLANS**

- a. Made us male and female at the beginning
- b. God had marriage in mind before the creation
- c. From the beginning it was not so, that man should divorce

2. **RELATION OF MARRIAGE IS SUPERIOR TO PARENTAL RELATIONSHIP**

- a. Leave father and mother - both are to leave parents
- b. Separate home is to be formed
- c. Cleave - to join fast together, to glue, cement (VEDNT p.196)

3. **ONE MAN FOR ONE WOMAN AND ONE WOMAN FOR ONE MAN**

- a. God did not create 2 women for Adam
- b. Mal. 2:14-16 To have a Godly seed
 - (1) He understood this to mean that there be one wife for each man
 - (2) Seed - children - broken marriages hurt the children as well
 - (3) If God had willed he could have created 2 women or 30 or 1,000 women for Adam
- c. Stay with the wife of thy youth

4. **GOD'S LAWS OF MARRIAGE APPLY TO ALL PEOPLE**

- a. "whosoever" This law applies to all people
- b. Attempt to get around God's laws by saying sinners who did not know and were married and divorced unscripturally are exempt!
- c. If not then the person could not be guilty of sin!
- d. He would not need the gospel to be saved.

5. **ONLY ONE CAUSE FOR DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE**

- a. Fornication "I" say unto you - this is the law set forth by Jesus -- It's the Son of God - "Hear ye Him" - Mt. 17:5
- b. Any other trivial cause - commits adultery
- c. Baptism or confession does not make it right - only repentance
 - (1) Polygamy - could he still continue?
 - (2) Adulterous marriages are not all right after baptism
 - (3) Repentance - turn away - cease the sin
- d. What was sin before baptism is sin afterwards - be it polygamy or adulterous marriages.

III. RESURRECTION - Matt. 22:23-33 Mark 12:18-27 Luke 20:27-40

A. Disputants - Sadducees and Jesus

B. ISSUE

1. Resurrection - Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection so they ask Jesus a question to try to trap him.
2. Woman married - husband dies - brother takes her all the way to 7 brothers. Who will be her husband in the resurrection?

- a. First husband - mine first
- b. Last husband - I had her last

C. RESOLVED by Jesus

1. "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God."
2. In resurrection they shall:
 - a. Neither marry nor are given in marriage
 - b. Like the angels - marriage not continued in future world
3. There will be a resurrection
 - a. Haven't you read the scripture - You quoted Moses to me as authority - I'll quote Moses to you as authority.
 - b. Exodus 3:6 quoted - 3 men dead I alive - God said "I am" not "I was" - They were still alive in some sense -- Soul was not dead.
4. Mark 12:27 "...ye do greatly err."
5. No death in next world - Luke 20:36

D. LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

1. **IT IS NOT UN-CHRISTIAN TO TELL PEOPLE THEY ERR**
 - a. Jesus said "ye do err" - Not Knowing the scriptures
 - b. Do not know the power of God
 - c. Mark 12:27 "Ye do greatly err"
 - d. Self contradictory to affirm it is wrong to tell others they are in error.
 - e. Gal. 6:1
2. **SOME QUESTIONS ARE UNANSWERABLE**
 - a. Based on false assumptions
 - b. Based on something that does not exist

(1) In the resurrection whose wife shall she be?

(2) It assumed that the resurrection life would be a continuation of life like here on the earth

c. Ye do err! You are ignorant of what the scriptures teach.

d. The body in the resurrection will be different - I Cor. 15:44-54

3. Foolish and unanswerable question: "Which will weigh the most a pound of feathers or a pound of rocks?"

CONCLUSION

1. Jesus was constantly involved in religious controversy.
 - a. He always answered the questions correctly
 - b. His attitude was one of love and concern
 - c. But this love did not mean he failed to tell them the truth about any matter, even marriage and divorce and remarriage.
 2. Jesus used scripture (O.T.) to answer!
 - a. Rom. 15:4 I Cor. 10:11
 - b. The O.T. scriptures are valuable for us today.
 - c. Reason we need to study - II Tim. 2:15
 3. We need Christians today who will speak up instead of clam up when religion is discussed.
 - a. Help us - to learn to be strong to study
 - b. Teach others - The truth can be learned
 - c. Spread the truth - more opportunity
 4. I Pet. 3:15
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