

## SAD TIMES, HAPPY TIMES

John 10:30-42

By Raymond White

Jesus felt the full range of human emotions. At times he was happy, even humorous. *Matthew 22:24* ye swallow a camel must have brought some laughter. Other times he was sad. *Isaiah 53:3* a man of sorrows acquainted with grief.

Deserting disciples made him sad, (*John 6:66-67*). A friend's grief made him sad, (*John 11:35*). And there was another time when he was very sad indeed. He was teaching a hostile crowd, hanging in there with them, teaching them in spite of their anger, because he loved them. He told them things that they needed to hear in spite of the great risk to himself personally. And, despite their mounting anger, he said this to them.

*John 10:30 I and my Father are one. :31 Then the Jews took up their stones again to stone him. :32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? :33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

It is sad when the truth make people angry, sadder that it makes them angry enough to kill. And his point (“for which of those good works do want to kill me) is right on the mark. He healed their lepers, their blind, their lame, and raised their dead. And now they wanted to kill him. How ungrateful is that? I believe he was shocked by their violent response.

How did he respond to their outrage? He could have said, “Forget I said anything” and walked away. But instead, he committed himself further, confirming what he had just said, making them angrier still.

*John 10:34 Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? :35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken. :36 Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? :37 If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. :38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye many know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.*

Nothing could have made them angrier — cold, hard facts that they could not argue with. Your own scriptures say you are gods and yet you are stoning me for claiming God is in me. God sent me into the world, you can see that by my works, and yet you accuse me of blasphemy. Facts are facts, and they had no response except their stones.

Well if doing all those wonderful things for them is not enough to persuade them, then there is nothing left to do but leave.

And so he did. He left. Not the street or the neighborhood, or the city, but the country.

*John 10:39 Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand. :40 And went away again beyond Jordan into the place where John at first baptized; and there he abode.*

He had had enough. He was not immune to human feelings and this feels to have brought him to despair. He left, and alone. There were no disciples with him, no family, no entourage as befitting the Son of God, no caravan. He abandoned everything and returned alone to where it all began, where repenting Jews first came to him and John in this desolate wilderness of desert. It was still a desert, still a wilderness where nothing grew. Had he accomplished anything at all since he left that lonely place? The loneliness and the sadness must have been overwhelming.

But then, something good happened. Something that he might not have expected.

***John 10:41** And many resorted unto him, and said, John did no miracles; but all things that John spake of this man were true. **:42** And many believed on him there.*

It wasn't all a waste. There were people who believed him — his words and his works. And when they learned that he had fled to the desert, that's where they went.

Jesus had friends after all. And they were true friends who came all the way out to that wasteland to find him and be with him. Maybe some of those who came had been in that crowd that tried to stone him, and then thought it through, "You know what? He's right. God *is* in him. The miracles prove that." And they spread the word, and they left work, and they came.

Jesus had friends after all. It wasn't all hatred and violence, there were times of happiness and for Jesus, and this was one of those times, surrounded by good friends.

What made Jesus happy? The same things that make you and I happy: love, peace, and good friends.

One day we will see Jesus. It will be a sad meeting if we've done things that made him sad. But how wonderful it will be if he says to us, "Welcome, friend. You made me happy."