

John # 92 “A Great Crowd” John 6:5-15

The Lord Jesus Christ suffered more than any human being ever has or ever will and yet He displayed more patience than anyone has or ever will.

He’s been suffering at the hands of the most highly regarded people in Israel but nonetheless, He’s maintained an uncanny peace and contentment.

Patience emphasizes an extension of faith-rest during suffering situations in life.

Suffering is actually designed by God to be a great blessing to us who trust in Him.

God wouldn’t let us suffer in this life if it were not part of His plan and it didn’t have a worthy purpose.

The Lord Jesus had more enemies than friends while He ministered in Israel and yet, He never wavered from His intended goal to please the Father; despite all opposition, He remained steadfast and relaxed through it all.

And Jesus Christ’s fiercest critics are among the most religious people who ever lived.

Religion is a satanically devised counterfeit of God’s truth; with everything God originated in His plan, Satan seeks to steal and replicate in one way or another.

So that’s why the Lord Jesus cannot compromise in His condemnation of religion.

On the inside, the Pharisees had the mental attitude sins of envy, jealousy, pride, hatred and bitterness; the sins which express hostility and contempt and they had the motivational sins of attention lust, power lust and materialism lust.

The inner mental attitude sins of life make any amount of external righteousness a lie.

The outside being clean is a reference to morality, keeping man-made taboos and the inside being filthy refers to mental attitude sins and motivation sins.

The religious always avoid obvious immorality while catering to their inner sins.

Degeneracy is defined as the state or process of becoming degenerate which means having sunk to a condition below that which is normal, a lower and usually corrupt vicious state becoming degraded or deteriorated to a low moral state; declining in quality.

From the biblical perspective, degeneracy is a decline from the divine standards of the plan of God.

Moral degeneracy expresses itself with the sins of arrogance, revenge, gossip, slander, maligning and spirituality by asceticism which beating oneself up for the cause.

And so, legalism unchecked results in moral degeneracy and that’s exactly where the Pharisees are.

The unbelieving Pharisees were heavily involved in judgement arrogance, a condition where the self-righteous legalist who seeks to impose his standards on others, judges them for not accepting these false or non-essential standards.

The Pharisees had no capacity for love, friendship, happiness or any viable relationship

with people because they were so guarded and protective of their power standing and that's why Jesus left the area of Jerusalem.

The Pharisees were supposed to be God's under-shepherds but instead they chose to be wolves in sheep's clothing.

The sheep's own resources are not the source of their feeding.

They feed on what the Good Shepherd gives them and it is the Lord who will multiply what He feeds them and His spiritual food is without cost to the sheep.

And so, our Shepherd provides the basis for our production of divine good.

If God is going to share His happiness with people, there must be a way He can share it through love.

Religion is never an accident, it is where negative reaction to God exists at God-consciousness; Satan's evil genius scheme of religion blinds the unbeliever and deceives the believer.

In the Christian life, a believer is either motivated by biblical truth in his soul through the filling of the Holy Spirit which produce personal love for God or by the lust pattern of the sin nature and Satan's world system which produces human good and evil.

Attitude toward Jesus Christ for the unbeliever and toward the mind of Christ for the believer which if positive, produces spiritual growth and that's what determines our motivation.

The Pharisees are negative toward the Person of Christ and so, their motivation was to destroy Him at all cost because they didn't have the love of God in them.

God motivates us through His revelation of Himself in His infallible Word and He makes His motivation understandable to us through the Mentorship of the Holy Spirit.

Most people want to go to church for emotional stimulation and the psychological support of a 15 minute feel-good sermon.

Very few want to be challenged and forced to concentrate and then objectively evaluate how they live.

People are much happier being validated for what they think and know rather than having to re-shape their values by renewing their minds with biblical truth.

Jesus Christ is the most polarizing figure in history and His truth divides and separates people.

Those who are truly positive will respond to Jesus' message and will organize everything in their lives around learning the Word of God as their #1 priority in life.