

John # 121 “The Spiritually Mature Response To Criticism” *John 7:4-7*

Jesus is facing rejection like no one else ever has or ever will; 99% of His congregation has defected and gone home quite possibly never to return after all He did for them in feeding their bodies and souls and one of His trusted inner circle not only doesn't believe in Him but he's indwelt by Satan and he's going to betray Him and then there's the most respected religious leaders who have made it priority #1 to wipe Him from the face of the earth.

And yet as we've seen so often, our Lord's example for us is the fact that He used the very same grace solutions available to us in the Church Age.

And if He used God's problem solving techniques to handle the most intense rejection ever experienced and He did; He demonstrates that we can use those same techniques to solve anything that comes our way, so what have we got to worry about?

The Lord Jesus handles the people testing from His family very well and He refuses to let them dictate His agenda which would take Him outside of God's timing for His life.

This situation tells us that there are times when we have to separate even from our parents, siblings, children, grandchildren, etc. because they've become a distraction in our relationship with the Lord Jesus.

The more we grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, the more we're faced with tempting distractions craftily designed by Satan within his world system to pull us off course in our experiential walk with our precious Savior.

Jesus says if you love Him and therefore are positive in your response to His teaching, it will divide you from your closest loved ones and friends.

Your enemy will be found in your camp simply because you want to follow Jesus Christ, the Author of grace and truth in His quest to preach the good news to this lost and dying world.

They'll actually hate you just because of what you now know to be true about spiritual eternal matters; things they haven't a clue about, so you must expect such challenges in your relationships.

The choices we make determine the life we live and certainly, a vital choice for all of us who trust in Jesus Christ as Savior is whether or not our family is more important to us than the Word of God.

God's fantastic greater-grace blessings come to us on the basis of persistence and perseverance by following in intimate fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Therefore, consistency whether we feel like it or not, is the secret to growing up spiritually, the secret to the successful experiential Christian life.

We must be challenged daily to grow up spiritually regardless of our circumstances in life; so no matter what happens, we must realize the importance of the mind of Christ in us.

The greater-grace believer is influenced by grace and truth rather than by evil legalistic religion,

aka the lies of Satan.

Being the half brother of the Lord Jesus Christ does not make someone noble.

The choices we make determine the life we live.

Beware of judging others by your own actions and thoughts.

Only God has the right to judge and only the Word of God has the right to condemn.

Unless God promotes us, we are not promoted.

Joshua 3:7 “And the Lord said to Joshua, ‘This day I will begin to magnify (promote) you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.’”

Luke 2:52 “And Jesus grew in wisdom (biblical truth) and stature (physical size and strength) and in favor with God and man.”

They watched Him, heard Him preach the Gospel and were blessed by simply being related to Him and yet with all that going for them, they still rejected Him!

His own half brothers, just like 5,000 political-leader seekers, want the crown before the cross.

If the crown came before the cross, there would be no timeless eternal kingdom, only a time-sensitive earthly kingdom.

The citizens of the eternal kingdom must have eternal life and that can only be accomplished

by way of the cross.

Ritual without reality is forever meaningless.

The world (Gr. kosmos) is a system of ideas that hates the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Lord’s four half brothers (His loved ones) are giving Him the same advice here (Show your miracles to the world) that Satan gave Him when he said; “If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”