

REACTION TO THE PREACHED WORD (2)

Introduction:

1. As we continue our study of first century preaching needed in the 20th century I want us to study the reaction to the preached word.
2. I am of the opinion that there is no area of study needed more than the one we are going to study.
3. The only kind of preaching that will do any good is preaching that will upset sin and sinners.
 - (1) This kind of preaching will SEPARATE those who love the truth from those who do not.
 - (2) This is the kind of preaching that Jesus, Paul, Stephen, Peter and other inspired men did.

I. JESUS REBUKED THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES FOR TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.

1. Matt. 15: 1 - 9
2. The REACTION that Jesus got from this teaching:
 - (1) The Pharisees were offended -- Matt. 15:12
 - (2) He had exposed them to the people.
3. When the fact that they were offended was called to Jesus' attention, He did not back up one bit.
 - (1) He told His disciples to leave them alone, that they were blind guides -- Matt. 15: 13 - 14
4. Today preachers must speak against the doctrines and commandments of men.
 - (1) Men who teach these doctrines of men will be offended.

II. JESUS' SERMON ON THE BREAD OF LIFE

1. The Lord preached a sermon on the bread of life in John 6.
2. The Jews murmured at Jesus because He said, "*I am the bread which came down from heaven...*" John 6:41
 - (1) They grumbled in a low tone.
3. Many of His disciples said, "*This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*" John 6:60
4. "*From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him...*" John 6:66
5. These Jews were carnally minded; they had no desire for the spiritual -- John 6:26; Rom. 8:7
6. Many today are not interested in the spiritual things and have no desire to hear them -- I Tim. 4: 3 - 4; Phil. 3: 18 - 19

III. JESUS TAUGHT IN THE TEMPLE IN JOHN 8:2

1. He said they wanted to KILL Him because He told them the truth -- John 8:40

2. In time, they did have Him killed -- Matt. 27: 22 ,35
3. The preaching of the truth will stir up great hate in the hearts of men who do not want to turn from their sinful ways.
4. John the Baptist told Herod, "*It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife*"...Mark 6:18
 - (1) Herodias, Herod's unlawful wife, had a quarrel against John and would have killed him because of what he said -- Mark 6:19
 - (2) She nursed her hate until her "convenient" day came, and she had John killed -- Mark 6: 21 - 28
 - (3) Hate is the incubator that hatches every vile and ugly deed.
5. Ahab hated the prophet Micaiah because he told him the truth -- I Kings 22: 8 -- "*But I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil.*"

IV. STEPHEN'S SERMON BEFORE THE COUNCIL -- ACTS 7

1. "*They were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth...*"--Acts 7:54
 - (1) They were filled with anger and hate after the sermon.
 - (2) A man is better or worse as the result of hearing a gospel sermon -- II Cor. 2: 15 - 16
 - (3) The PERSON, and NOT the truth is responsible for the different effects it has.
 - (1) Some do not love the truth -- II Thess. 2: 10 -11
 - (2) Some will not endure sound doctrine -- II Tim. 4:3
2. They stoned Stephen to death -- Acts 7: 57 - 60
 - (1) We learn from this that CHARACTER will not save a man from HARM and SUFFERING if he has preached the Truth -- II Tim. 2:3
 - (2) The preacher doing right may bring upon himself hardships and persecutions -- II Tim. 3:12

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