

We Found This Fellow Perverting The Nation

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 23:2: "And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King."

To the sinner the teachings of Jesus might have sounded like someone trying to pervert the nation. Think about it, life went on with the Romans controlling Israel, the Jews hating them, the Samaritans, the gentiles, and often one another. The priests, lawyers, scribes and some other groups preyed on the common people. Amidst this came Jesus preaching love, peace and holiness.

The message of Jesus went against everything that the ruling class of priests stood for. They claimed to hold true to the teaching of Moses, but had settled for ritual and ceremony instead of a relationship with God. **John 5:45-47:** "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have

believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" As Jesus spoke against a dry, dead ceremony the scribes and priests were filled with anger. When he drove the money changers and animals from the temple they wanted to kill him. To them he was perverting their way of life and drawing away many followers. They were also full of envy because of the miracles that he did.

Jesus brought a new message to the people. He didn't quote the old Rabbis as the priests did, he spoke as one with authority. **Matthew 7:29:** "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." The gospel called for an awakening, a revival with the people turning back to God. This worried the Jewish leaders because they thought that they would lose their place in the lives of the people. Like some dominations today they like to control the people and to rule over them. In the gospels you can read of how the people feared the religious leaders, afraid that they would be thrown out of the temple. In **John 9** parents were even afraid to speak about their own son.

Then the priests had another avenue of attack. They told Pilot

that Jesus was another person teaching rebellion against Rome. He was accused of telling the people to not pay taxes and that he was claiming to be a king. Those so-called religious leaders didn't mind lying and doing all sorts of sinful things to get their way. As they perverted the truth, they felt that Jesus perverted their ways.

This is like our world today. Those who love evil feel like Christians are perverting things that they want to do. It has been said that we are holding up progress in many areas of science. We are called narrow minded because we don't go along with a man marrying another man, or two women marrying. It is sin, but they don't want it called that. They don't want to admit that they, not Christians, are the perverts.

It is time to wake up and to see that there is a right way and a wrong way to live. If we don't walk with God then we don't know the right way. He tells us what is sin and what is holy. He tells us, but it is up to us to decide which way that we want to go. There are results to either choice that we make. If we go the way of the flesh we will end up lost and in hell. Following the leading of the Holy Spirit will lead us to eternal life in heaven.

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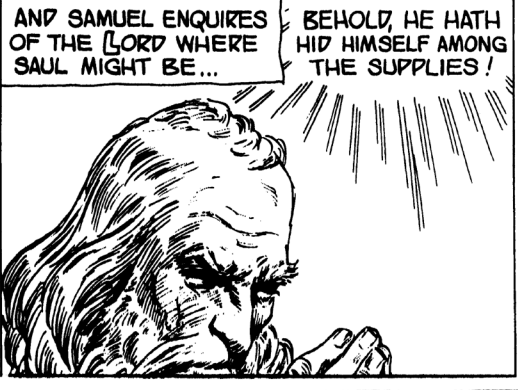
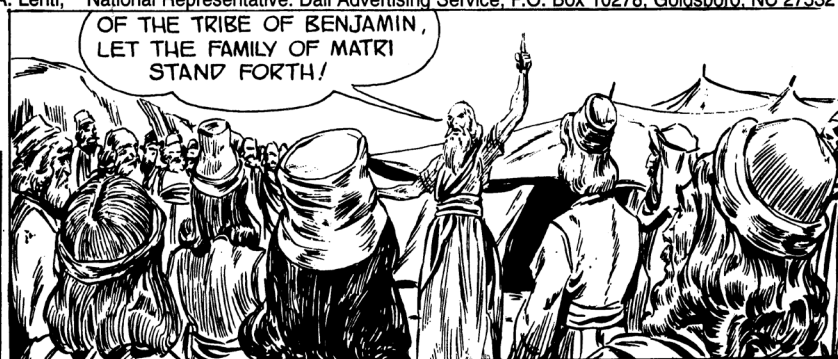
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