

Was It Something I Said?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Acts 22 gives the account of Paul speaking to the Jews after they had tried to kill him. They listened quietly as he spoke to them in Hebrew telling of his conversion to Christ. As he spoke of persecuting the church they were interested until he said in verse 22 that God had sent him to the Gentiles. Then they cried out for his blood, saying it was not fit that he should live.

In **Acts 7** Stephen had a similar experience with the Jews. They listened until they heard something that they didn't like, then they covered their ears and attacked him. He would die from being stoned, hated and killed because he told them things that they didn't want to hear. Today people get angry when they hear things that they don't like too.

Anyone who has preached has those who do not like him. If the gospel is preached as it is in the scriptures then some folks will not like it because it doesn't go along with the way they see it. Like Paul, Stephen, John the Baptist, and many others, the

faithful preacher will upset some people. Some have lost their lives like John, others have lost their pulpit, because they didn't try to please men, but to please God.

I have been fussed at for saying that God, and what he says, is to be taken over what anyone else says. The preacher, family, friends and anyone else is wrong if they try to change what God has said. One person told me that he would listen to his family and it made no difference what I said. He was angry as he said it, but, like it or not, God is true and any other opinion is wrong.

Another time some got angry because I said that songs that glorified drinking, violence, adultery, and such things were not good. Should a Christian enjoy and support that which is against everything that God says? No, anyone should know the answer to that. A person may say that they like music and that's fine, I like a lot of it as well. But, I still say that if it promotes sinful things then it is wrong.

Saying anything against sports will stir some to anger very quickly. Sports, like most everything else, is alright in its place. When it is put before God it becomes wrong. People miss church for a ball game sometimes. Some take their children to games more than

they ever take them to church. Yet, when there is trouble, sickness or death, it is not the coach that is called but the preacher. He may be accepted until he says something that they don't want to hear. When folks get angry, leave the church, or ask the preacher to leave he will probably say, "Was it something I said?"

Politics is another subject that is a touchy subject. I don't think I've seen many as passionate about their faith in God as they are about their politics. Even some church leaders have defended their politicians even though they have committed adultery, lied, and broken the law. On adultery, one person said, "Well, he's a man and a man will do things like that." Then he went on to say that he supported his party because he thought he had more money when they were in office. Well if a man sins, it is wrong I don't care who he is. They will face God and his judgment, as will those who supported them.

It seems odd to me that if you tell someone that something is a sin, they get angrier at you for daring to say it than for the sin itself. Jesus made people angry at times when he told them what they needed to hear, if we present his word they will get mad at us as well.

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THE SWORD OF GOLIATH!

IT WAS AHIMELECH, THE HIGH PRIEST OF NOB, WHO GAVE TO DAVID THE SWORD OF GOLIATH WHEN THE FUTURE KING OF ISRAEL WAS FLEEING FROM KING SAUL AND HAD NO WEAPON WITH WHICH TO DEFEND HIMSELF! (1 SAM. 21:1-9). AHIMELECH ALSO GAVE DAVID THE SHEW BREAD TO EAT WHICH WAS ONLY TO BE EATEN BY THE PRIESTS - BY LAW! SO ENRAGED WAS KING SAUL BY THIS THAT HE ORDERED AHIMELECH AND EIGHTY FIVE OTHER PRIESTS KILLED! (1 SAM. 22:18-23) IT IS NOT KNOWN IF DAVID USED THE SWORD THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, BUT MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS LATER JESUS USED THE INCIDENT AS A DEFENSE AGAINST THE PHARISEES (MARK 2: 23-26).



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