

They Did It Then, And Now

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

The nation of Israel was a nation that worshiped the living God. Through much of their history they had turned to idols and had suffered for it. After the years of being captives in Babylon they had forsaken their idols and claimed the true God. In the time that Jesus was walking in Israel the people, especially the Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, and other groups, believed in their own righteousness. They felt that they were God's people and didn't need anything, or anyone; so they rejected, and opposed, Jesus at every turn.

It is a shame that so many that were believers in God and thought that they were doing God's will, caused Jesus the most trouble. It was not the average person who opposed Jesus as much as the leaders of Israel. All of the groups who were supposed to be leading the common people in walking with God accused Jesus of blasphemy, trying to discredit him in the eyes of the people and then ultimately

sought to have him killed. Instead of welcoming the opportunity to learn of God firsthand they hated him. They were not looking for the Christ, although they knew of the prophecies and the promise of God. It was wise men from another country who knew of his birth before the people of Israel.

The self-righteous Pharisees not only refused to believe in Jesus, but also persecuted anyone who confessed him. In **John 9** is the story of the blind man who was given his sight. He was thrown out of the temple because he said the Jesus was a man of God. The man's own parents were afraid to speak for him because of the Pharisees.

Today, often times it is the people, at least some of them, who say that they believe in God, and have received Jesus as their Lord who bring discouragement. Some will not obey the word of God, preferring what they think, or like over what God has said. They don't feel that putting God first is what they should do, so they will not do it. Some come to church if they don't have something else to do. Many sit in church on Sunday morning knowing that they will not be there Sunday night.

Jesus said in **Matthew 23** that the scribes and the Pharisees were guilty of saying, but not doing. Many folks today are about the same. They will say that they love the Lord but will not do what he has said for us to do. **Luke 6:46**, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" People want the blessings of God, but want to live their lives the way that they want to, not the way that God says to live. I have known of different cases where men who were leaders in their congregations, being asked to come to Sunday school and replying that if they had to come to Sunday school they would quit coming at all.

In some churches, Sunday school is few in number. Wednesday night is cancelled because of lack of interest. The evening service is not supported as it once was, and there are churches where it is not held at all. Revivals are not the two week, or one week services that used to be, with a spring and a fall revival. Now it is thought to be great if there is a two, or three day service. Some don't have a revival service at all. Are we helping to do God's work, or are we hindering it?

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL

LABAN, SEARCHING FOR HIS STOLEN GODS, COMES NOW TO RACHEL'S TENT WHERE THEY ARE HIDDEN, NOW...

I SHALL FIND THEM WHEREVER THEY REPOSE.

...RACHEL PRETENDS TO A WOMANLY ILLNESS, RECLINING ON THE SADDLE OF HER CAMEL, IN WHICH THE GODS ARE HIDDEN...

SEARCH MY TENT, MY FATHER - ONLY ASK ME NOT TO MOVE FOR I AM FAINT!

SHORTLY THEREAFTER...

I SEARCHED THE CAMP COMPLETELY - THEY ARE NOT TO BE FOUND!

NOW, WHERE IS MY SIN? WHERE IS MY WRONG DOING OF WHICH THOU HAST ACCUSED ME?!

FOR TWENTY YEARS I HAVE LABORED FOR THEE AND TREATED THEE JUSTLY - AND THOU HAST NOT TREATED ME KINDLY BUT CHANGED MY WAGES TEN TIMES - THOU HAST DEALT UNJUSTLY WITH ME!

COME, LISTEN TO MY WORDS...

Next Week The covenant

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