

Downplaying Jesus - Beware

Matthew 15:29-16:12

Introduction - Downplaying Jesus is often done even in the C_____ world. We should use these situations as an opportunity to share the t_____ of Scripture.

Downplaying His m_____ (15:29-16:1,4)

- The Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus to t_____ Him
 1. They had h_____ of Jesus's miracles (15:31-39) and probably witnessed some of them.
 2. They demanded that Jesus give them a sign from h_____ (16:1) – an example might be raining fire.
- Jesus refused their demand stating He would only give them the sign of J_____ (16:4)
 1. They k_____ what this sign was from His explanation to another delegation earlier (12:38-40)
 2. This is the sign of the r_____
 - a. Ps 16:10 prophesied that God's Holy One (Messiah) would not undergo d_____.
 - b. Is 53:10 prophesied that after the Suffering Servant presented Himself as a guilt offering, he would see His offspring and p_____ His days.
 3. Later, the religious leaders made sure that Jesus's body stayed in the tomb by closing it up with a l_____ stone, g_____ it with Roman soldiers, and s_____ it with a governmental seal which, if broken, means the death penalty. But on the third day, Jesus rose from the dead and proved it by showing Himself to _____ His followers.
- Some may claim to be a Christian but downplay the resurrection miracle (Jehovah's Witnesses, some liberal Christians)
 1. Some say that Jesus only rose from the dead s_____.
 2. When they say the above, ask them three questions:
 - a. Lk 24:39 - What did Jesus mean that He was not a ghost but was flesh and b_____ as He showed them His crucifixion wounds? If He only raised spiritually and not bodily, His statement would be f_____.
 - b. 1Thess 5:24,25 – What is going to be restored for every believer at Christ's coming? – everyone's spirit, soul, and b_____

- c. 1Cor 15:13,14 - What was Paul's understanding of the penalty of sin when He said that if Jesus did not rise from the dead, then we are still in our sins and our faith is worthless? The penalty of sin is both spiritual and physical death. He obviously saw the physical resurrection of Jesus as overcoming the penalty of sin. If physical death was not reversed, then sin would w_____.

Downplaying His m_____ (16:5-12)

- Jesus warned His disciples to beware of the Pharisees' l_____
 1. Leaven is y_____ and is a key ingredient in making bread dough rise.
 2. The disciples at first took Jesus l_____.
 3. Then they realized that Jesus meant it as a metaphor.
 - a. Leaven corresponded to the Pharisees' t_____
 - b. The Pharisees' teachings focused on h_____
- The Pharisees often downplayed Jesus's message in the name of holiness.
 1. They called Jesus a f_____ of sinners, a glutton, and a drunkard (Matt 11:19). Was this true?
 - a. Jn 15:14 – Jesus clarified that only those who have the lifestyle of o_____ Him are His friends
 - b. Jesus was not a glutton or a drunkard. He ministered to gluttons and drunkards.
 2. Jesus did not run with the immoral crowd. The immoral crowd c_____ to Him.
- Many downplay Jesus's message of love and repentance in the name of political correctness.
 1. Jesus taught that we are to love e_____
 - a. Many say that by speaking against the g_____ lifestyle, you are not showing love and are being intolerant.
 - b. Many are ordaining practicing homosexuals as pastors or priests and accepting this lifestyle as acceptable to G_____
 2. Some try to justify the gay lifestyle scripturally (e.g. the Bible only speaks against a promiscuous gay lifestyle, like in the case of S_____ and Gomorrah.
- Respond to the gay issue with love and with a solution.

1. Lev 18:22; 20:13 – classifies a single homosexual act as an a _____ to God. What God viewed as despicable in the O.T., He continues to view as despicable.
2. Rom 1:26,27 – all same-sex relations are called unnatural and d _____ passions.
3. The f _____ of “gayness” are not sin, but acting on them is sin. It is no different than having feelings of l _____.

Downplaying His m _____ (16:1-3)

- The Pharisees and Sadducees demand that Jesus give them a sign from h _____ in order to discredit Jesus as the Son of God, as the C _____ and as being a mere man.
- Jesus responded that although they could discern the signs of good or bad weather, they could not discern the signs of the t _____. What were these signs?
 1. The sudden appearance of someone doing compassionate m _____.
 2. The prophecies related to the timing of the Messiah’s appearance.
 - a. During the time of the R _____ empire (Dan 2:40-45)
 - b. 483 years after the decree issued in 457 B.C. to r _____ and rebuild Jerusalem.
- Many will only recognize Jesus as a good man, or a great teacher, but nothing more. Respond in love by showing that neither of those are reasonable options. If anyone claims to be God, there are only three possible conclusions:
 1. That person is _____
 2. That person is _____
 3. That person is _____
- How do we know that Jesus is God in the flesh, the enactor of the New Covenant, the only payment for sin, the Savior of the world?
 1. He confirmed it by His m _____
 2. He confirmed it by His s _____
 3. He proved His identity by r _____ from the dead.

Conclusion: When anyone downplays Jesus’s miracles, message, or majesty, see that as an opportunity to sow the truth into their life.