

God – our Moral Authority

God – “Taking us to School each Day”

Jesus as Moral Teacher: Where does this leave us?

ONE: Our research presents us with a serious 'Reality Check':

1. Jesus was **not embarrassed or disturbed by** His constant and clear teaching that His Father was the ultimate source/author of every scrap of the Hebrew Bible, and:
2. He was **not embarrassed or disturbed by** His constant and clear teaching that His Father was the YHWH in every event of the Hebrew Bible that involved YHWH, and:
3. He was **not embarrassed or disturbed by** His constant and clear teaching that ALL of the OT endorsed Him and His two appearances on the earth—one of creating possibility and means of rapprochement with God, and a subsequent one of judgment, forced redress of grievances, and excision of anti-citizens from the New Future/Community and removal of anti-children from the New Future/Universe.
4. He was **not embarrassed or disturbed by** His constant and clear teaching that future actions of Himself and of His Father would include judgment-class actions of forcefulness, discomfort, and final abandonment of the treacherous and relationship-hating saboteurs to the FULL consequences of their character and of the imprint of that character on the history and lives of others (and themselves).

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TWO: Who is our Moral Authority?

- ❑ Do we REALLY trust Jesus for moral perfection, authority, exemplar?
 - His perfection?
 - ❖ Have we wrestled with His human experiences?
 - Frustration?
 - Anticipation of the Cross?
 - The fig tree?
 - Harsh rebukes?
 - ❖ Have we wrestled with His statements about His future actions in Judgment?
 - His authority?
 - ❖ Do we trust His judgment, in His acceptance of the OT events?
 - His example as role-model?
 - ❖ Do we try to emulate that in our lives – with Him as exemplar?

- ❑ Do we REALLY trust Father for moral perfection, authority, exemplar?
 - The Problem of Natural Evil?
 - The Problem of Predation in Nature?
 - The Problems caused by His patience and hopefulness?

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TWO: Who is our Moral Authority – and who makes counter-claims?

- ☐ Scoffers – no analysis, no argument, just ‘unjustified ridicule’...
- ☐ Slanderers – some consciously so; some just superficial in knowledge
- ☐ Colonizers – putting truth into service for worldly-only goals
- ☐ Relative – izers -- (what is true for YOU might not be true for Me)
- ☐ Re-interpreters - ('there's glory for you' – Humpty Dumpty)
- ☐ Distracters – by sensuality or by stress
- ☐ Bullies and Despots – ('My truth will be enforced')
- ☐ Those that paint with glitter...
- ☐ "Peace at all costs" (*the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable*)

- ☐ **Us – ("we have met the enemy, and he is us" – Pogo, 1971)**

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THREE: Worshipping in both SPIRIT and TRUTH...

☐ In Spirit - Passion of the Heart

- Trust
- Gratitude
- Expectation of Finding Goodness
- Recognition of required effort at staying honest and staying open

☐ In Truth – Peace of Conscience

- True view of God
 - Not our 'culturally-conditioned' construction
 - Not just appearances but also disclosures (e.g. His emotive statements and commentary)
- True view of His works
 - The real story – “God—not the devil—is in the details, here”
 - The real context – Death of Egyptian Firstborn (69,000 one time); Death of Jewish males via systemic, government mandated infanticide (midpoint of 2.75 million, 40K more per year, on-going)
 - The real constraints -- what options are open in the setting and the era?