

DESTRUCTION BY REDEFINITION

Sermon by Pastor John, May, 1993

Today, I want us to look at some scriptures and see what the leaders among God's people did in the Old Covenant and how it parallels what men in a similar position have done to the faith in this New Covenant. I have given this sermon the title of "Destruction by Redefinition".

First, let's turn to Psalm 119. There is a verse in this Psalm that the Spirit branded on my heart years ago. It's a prophecy of when Jesus came to earth the first time. In Psalm 119, verse 126, this is what the prophet, "moved by the Spirit of God", said "O LORD, it is time for you to work, for they have made void your law."

Paul said that Jesus came "in the fullness of time", but what was "fullness" about the time Jesus came? It certainly wasn't fullness of the intellectual ability of man. Look how much has been learned and accomplished since that time. One thing that made it the fullness of time was that the leaders of God's people, Israel, had fully "made void" the law God had given them at Mount Sinai. No doubt, thinking to do good, those leaders had completely corrupted the law of Moses. And they had completely corrupted it and made it void *by redefining it*; that is, by giving God's words in the law new definitions. Psalm 11, verse 3 says this: "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The foundations are destroyed when they are redefined.

I want you to look at Luke 6 now, and let's see how the truth of God's law had been destroyed, or made void, by means of redefinition.

Luke 6

1. Now, it came to pass during a certain Sabbath that he went through the grain fields, and his disciples began plucking and eating heads of grain, rubbing them with their hands.
2. But certain of the Pharisees said to them, "Why are you doing what is unlawful to do on the Sabbath?"

Let's pause here. You need to know that what Jesus' disciples were doing in these verses *was* lawful to do on a Sabbath, or on any other day for that matter, *according to God's law*. These Pharisees had made that truth void by redefining the Sabbath, that is, by redefining what was allowed to be done on the Sabbath. The Pharisees here were declaring something unlawful for the Sabbath that God did not declare unlawful.

3. And Jesus replied to them and said, "Have you not even read this, what David did the time he was hungry, he and those who were with him,
4. how he entered into the house of God, and took and ate the bread of the Presence, and he even gave some to those with him, which isn't lawful to eat, except for the priests alone?"

In verse four, Jesus used the word "unlawful" rightly. A careful reading of the gospels will show that whenever Jesus said something was unlawful, it really was unlawful, according to the law of his Father. If what his disciples were doing had really been unlawful, Jesus would not have allowed them to do it, but when his disciples were plucking the heads of grain and eating them, they were not doing anything unlawful according to God's law; they were only transgressing the Pharisees' redefinition of the Sabbath.

In one story from Luke 6, we learn that the scribes and Pharisees had invented for the Sabbath a rule forbidding healing on that day. Later, in Acts 1, we learn that they had also made it unlawful to take a Sabbath day stroll of more than a prescribed, relatively short, distance. All such rules were evil, for adding to the law of God, they redefined the law *as God gave it*. Moses sternly forbade

Israel to do that. But they did it. And in doing it, they redefined and voided God's commandments, *as they had been given*. This is what Moses told Israel:

Deuteronomy 4

1. Give heed, O Israel, to the statutes and to the judgments which I am teaching you, to do them, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you.
2. You shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish ought from it, [Why?] so that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you [instead of their redefinitions].

You cannot keep God's commandments if they have been altered because in that case, the commandments you are keeping are different from what He said. The word that comes from the mouth of God cannot be improved upon. His thoughts are perfect, and His words perfectly reflect His thoughts. "The words of the LORD are pure words, as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times" (Ps. 12:6). There is nothing wrong or lacking in anything God has ever said. And there is nothing about us that would enable us to improve upon what God says. If we add anything to it, we corrupt it. Or if we leave off anything of what God has said, we do the same. To add to God's words or to leave off some of them is to redefine what He has said and to supplant His word with our own opinion.

Such redefinition, which can never be right and holy, can become such an absorbing thing to us that we condemn the upright if they do not live according to our redefinition of righteousness. That's what was happening in Israel when Jesus came. And that day in the grainfield, Jesus was warning the Pharisees who followed him to beware that spiritual pitfall. Proverbs 17:5 says, "He that justifies the wicked, and he that condemns the just, they both alike are an abomination to the LORD." The standard that God sets always justifies the just and always condemns the wicked. God always gets it right. He neither excuses wickedness nor fails to recognize righteousness. But when we redefine God's law, either by adding to it or by omitting part of it, we necessarily redefine righteousness, and that means that we redefine sin. And that is exactly what the rulers of the Jews at Jesus' time had done.

More evidence for this is found in Acts 10:28, and this time, we find it coming even from an apostle's mouth! Here in Acts 10:28, when Peter, in obedience to God, went to the Gentile Cornelius' house, he told Cornelius when he first arrived, "You know how forbidden it is for a Jewish man to associate with or come close to a foreigner." However, there is nothing in the law that God gave to Moses that forbade an Israelite from visiting or associating with a Gentile. God never told the Jews not to be friends with a Gentile or not to eat with one. It's not in the law. I've read it carefully, and I know that there is no such commandment in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy. Now, Moses did say to Israel that when they went into the land of Canaan that they were to destroy those wicked people, but God said that He gave that commandment because of the great wickedness of the Canaanites, not merely because they were uncircumcised. God just wanted to rid the earth of those morally wretched people. But here is Peter, in Acts 10:28, referring to a simple visit to a Gentile's house as forbidden! Peter had grown up under traditions that had been added to the law of God, "the traditions of the elders", and he had always been told by Israel's leaders that it was unlawful for a Jew to visit a Gentile, but I want you to consider what Peter said next:

“. . . but God!”

That's what Peter loved most – the God part of life. “The traditions of the elders” had redefined much of what God said to Moses, but something inside those who loved Jesus drew them to the real thing. Jesus brought to Israel a capital “. . . BUT GOD!” He brought to Israel a renewed revelation of the pure word of God.

It's the mark of a truly humble man, as Peter was, that when God spoke to him, he did what God said instead of continuing to do what the elders of his nation had always taught him was right. As a matter of fact, if Peter hadn't been such an humble man and so sincerely loved the living God, he wouldn't have gone to Cornelius' house even though he'd heard a voice from heaven telling him to do so. Think about it. While here on earth, Jesus plainly commanded Peter and the other apostles *not* to go to a Gentile's house. In Acts 10, however, Jesus, then in heaven with the Father, gives Peter a new commandment. And this wonderful man, Peter, had the love of God and the humility to change direction, even if it was difficult for him to do so. Peter wasn't in bondage to the redefinition of the law that he had lived under! By faith in the risen Jesus, Peter rose above his time and culture. This is the entire sentence that Peter spoke to Cornelius:

“You know how forbidden it is for a Jewish man to associate with or visit a foreigner, **but God** has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean.”

In Mark's story of the man with a withered hand, Jesus asked a penetrating question, trying to show the people in the synagogue what was really lawful and what was not.

Mark 3

1. He went again into the synagogue, and there was a man there with a hand that was withered.
2. And they were watching him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath, that they might bring a charge against him.
3. And he told the man who had the hand that was withered to stand up in the midst,
4. and then he said to them, “Is it lawful to do good on the Sabbath or to do evil? To save life or to kill?” But they remained silent.

Why didn't the religious leaders in the synagogue that day answer Jesus and tell him of their revelation from God which led them to add to the law's Sabbath day restrictions? Answer: They didn't have any revelation to tell; they had made up the prohibition to heal on the Sabbath.

5. And when he had looked around on them with anger, being grieved at the hardness of their heart, he told the man, “Stretch out your hand!” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored, as healthy as the other one.
6. And the Pharisees went out immediately and began to take counsel against him with the Herodians, how they might destroy him.

In John chapter 9, we have the extraordinary story of a man who had been born blind. Jesus happened to pass by him one day, healed him, and then told him to obey the law; that is, don't sin any more. But the Pharisees brought that man in for questioning because it was a Sabbath day when Jesus healed the man's eyes. The healed man began to tell the court that some man he didn't know had come by and told him to go wash his eyes, and so, he went and washed his eyes, and suddenly, he could see! When they criticized Jesus and demanded that the healed man repeat his testimony, he became exasperated with them and said, “I've already explained it to you! Do you want to be his disciples, too?” Enraged, they said, “You're his disciple! We're Moses' disciples! We know that

this man [Jesus] is not of God. He does not keep the Sabbath!” But that was not true! Jesus always kept the Sabbath *the way His heavenly Father had said it was to be kept*. The rulers were condemning Jesus only on the basis of their redefinition of how the Sabbath should be kept.

Almost Unbelievable

The following case of destruction by redefinition found in Matthew 27 is so evil and irrational that it defies believability. Observe how utterly depraved human judgment can become, once men have dared to tamper with the words of God:

Matthew 27

1. Now, when early morning came, all the chief priests and elders of the people reached a decision against Jesus, to put him to death,
2. and when they had tied him up, they led him away and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.
3. Then, when Judas, the one who betrayed him, saw that he was condemned, he changed his mind and returned the silver pieces to the high priests and the elders,
4. saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood!” But they said, “What is that to us? You see to that.”

Think about this! These men, who were responsible for leading Israel in the way of righteousness, told Judas, in effect, “So, you regret having betrayed innocent blood to death? What is that to us? We don’t care whether Jesus is innocent or not. We just want him dead.”

These are the same men whom Jesus said were sitting in Moses’ seat, warning even his own disciples to do as they said. These men were in a position of great authority among God’s people, and they were looked up to as examples of what was right, according to the law. And they are the ones who said (paraphrased), “We don’t care if we are murdering an innocent man. You see to that!”

But then they showed what they really thought was holy:

5. And [Judas] threw the silver pieces down in the temple and ran off, and went and hanged himself.
6. The high priests, taking the silver pieces, said, “It is not lawful to put these coins into the temple treasury, since it is blood-money.”

No one in heaven would help Judas, and no one on earth could. He was hopelessly damned while he still breathed. But the chief priests were not flabbergasted at Judas’ awful, living damnation; they were indignant that he had the nerve to cast something unclean down on the holy floor of the temple! “He has defiled the temple with blood-money!” Can you believe this? They were OK with betraying an innocent man; indeed, they had used holy money to pay somebody to betray an innocent man into their murderous hands. But oh! to defile the temple floor with the blood-money was an unspeakable crime! That’s how hard our hearts can become, once we start adding to or detracting from the word of God. Or – and this is important for us today – that’s how hard our hearts can become if we make ourselves partners with those who have redefined the way of God!

“Come Out of Her, My People!”

The Spirit is saying to everyone who is in Christ, “Come out of her, my people, so that you partake not of her sins and receive not her plagues!” Judas, though very close to Jesus, chose to be partners with Jesus’ enemies. When Judas said, “I have betrayed innocent blood.” He was actually

saying, “*We* have betrayed innocent blood. This is an innocent man *we* are murdering. *Our* plan is killing an innocent person.” But they said, “*We* don’t care. *You* see to that!” Judas did not belong with them, and they knew it. God knew it, too. And He also knows that His children in this New Testament do not belong among those who have redefined the faith of Christ.

Left to ourselves, every one of us would do just as the leaders of Israel did. Left to ourselves, every one of us would redefine righteousness to make ourselves look godly without really repenting and surrendering to the will of God. Left to ourselves, that is where we all would, by nature, go – always, every time, every one of us! We would all redefine the way of God to suit ourselves, and then congratulate ourselves because of how faithful we are to the religion we have invented. But “we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags,” and our ways just won’t hold up in God’s sight.

Look at Matthew 23:15 now, and this will bring us to the point of my message.

Matthew 23

15. Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees! Hypocrites! You compass land and sea to make one convert, and when he is made, you make him twice as sure of Gehenna as you are.

Hosea will help us understand what Jesus was saying here. Hosea is the first of what is called the “minor prophets”. And in Hosea 10:1, we find one of the most illogical statements you’ll ever find in the Bible: “Israel is an empty vine. He bears fruit to himself.”

Now, usually, if a vine is empty, it doesn’t bring forth any fruit. But Hosea said that Israel was an empty vine *and* that it bears fruit ... *to himself*. In other words, when the scribes and Pharisees to whom Jesus spoke in Matthew 23 traveled across sea and land, they bore fruit *only to their redefined religion*. God got nothing out of it. So, from God’s standpoint, Israel was an empty vine, for the fruit they bore was to their own version of the law, not to His. They *said* that their law was the law of Moses. They *said* that their Sabbath was the Sabbath of the LORD. They *said* that they were Abraham’s children. But one of the great revelations of the New Testament is that God didn’t agree with any of that! And because God loved them, Israel was blessed with a group of men sent from God – Paul especially, to proclaim to all men that mere circumcision in the flesh was insufficient and that God now required circumcision in the heart by the Spirit. Paul wrote things like, “I send greetings to the Israel of God”, meaning, of course, the Israel that really is of God. He explained the way God saw it: “One is not a Jew outwardly; nor is circumcision outward in the flesh. But one is a Jew inwardly, and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, whose praise is not of men, but of God.”

What this means is that for a Gentile in Jesus’ time to be converted and become a Jew meant little or nothing to God. In fact, according to Jesus, such a person was worse off after he was converted to that religion, and were twice as sure of damnation as the Pharisees who converted them. And yet, in spite of that reality, the vast majority of the Israelites would have glorified God for those conversions. They would have thought things like, “Thank the Lord, somebody else has realized that we are right.” And that, my friends, is where we stand today.

Christianity

Satan has accomplished a complete redefinition of some of the most important words in the New Testament. He has accomplished in this covenant what he accomplished in the old one. Everybody feels the truth of that statement, but nobody, it seems, is doing anything about it, probably because they don’t know what to do about what they feel. For the most part, from what I have seen, they do

not even know that they do not know. God's definition of certain key words has been destroyed from the minds of those who belong to Him. It is almost impossible to have a conversation with anyone in our time about "the body of Christ", or "salvation", or "repentance", or "the sacrifice of Christ", or "baptism", or "the new birth", and so forth, because those words have been redefined by the religion of Christianity. Even the Jesus and the God of the Bible have been replaced by the Jesuses and Gods that are more in line with the redefined faith of Christ.

If you were to walk out on this street and use the phrase "body of Christ", as God uses it, you would sound odd to just about anyone you spoke to because what is in their minds when they hear "the body of Christ" is not what is in God's mind when He uses that phrase. The destruction of the truth is so complete, and the redefined religion so ensconced in this culture, that the more plainly you speak the truth, the stranger you sound.

When Paul said there is only "one body", he meant that there is not but one body *as far as God is concerned*. He knew that men were devising, even in his time, other bodies and saying that they were bodies of Christ. Men have devised hundreds of bodies and called them bodies of Christ, but there still is only one body in the eyes of God! When Paul said, "by one spirit we are all baptized into one body", he was telling us what makes us part of the body of Christ. In God's mind, the definition of "the body of Christ" is those people who have been baptized by His Son with the holy Spirit. That is the *only* definition of "the body of Christ" that is legitimate! There is no other definition that counts in heaven.

Over the last few days, since Jesus has spoken to me about what I am telling you today, I've noticed in conversations with some of you a familiar internal struggle as you try to state what the fundamental problem among believers is. You feel the right thing, but from this time forward, you will see clearly what the problem is, and the solution to it. I have heard you say, as I have done a hundred times in the past, "denominations" this, and "denominations" that, trying to give a name to the source of the division and confusion of believers. I tell you now that you might as well use the word that accurately labels the disease: "Christianity". [Uncle Joe speaks up and says, "That's right. That's what they call it."] *Christianity is the Gentiles' redefined faith of Christ, just as the Judaism of Jesus' day was the redefined faith of the law*. What Christianity calls the body of Christ is not the body of Christ. ONLY what Jesus says the body of Christ is, is the body of Christ. What Christians call being born again is not being born again. ONLY what Jesus said being born again is, is being born again. When Christians speak of baptism, they are not talking about the "one baptism" of Christ that Paul spoke of. They are speaking of a useless wetting of the flesh. The list goes on and on.

Many good people in Christianity feel the truth of what I am telling you. Many of them have told me that they know that the sect they have joined is not really the one body. They have said the same to some of you. [Uncle Joe says, repeating a Christian's statement to him, "Oh, I know there is not but one, but . . ."] Lip service does not cut it with God. He is looking for people who will love the truth enough to act on it! What good is knowing the truth if we don't act on it? What's the point of God showing us anything if we don't act on it? The reason I despise what is called Christianity is the same reason God despises it – it is a lie. The whole thing. It cannot save a soul! It won't save anybody. Even some Christian ministers will admit that joining a church won't save your soul. Well, then, don't join it! Stay out of church if it won't save your soul. Don't ever be a part of a body that won't save your soul. Get in the one body of Christ that saves the soul!

The Spirit itself has been redefined by Christianity, and that redefinition began in the apostles' day. Because of the redefinition of the Spirit happening in his day, John was compelled to remind the saints, "This is how you know the Spirit of God: every Spirit [not every person!] that confesses Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God" (1Jn. 4:2) In other words, every holy Spirit that speaks in tongues (or produces "stammering lips") when it comes in, that's the real holy Spirit of God. Every spirit that somebody has to tell you that you have received, that's not the Spirit of God. That's a dumb spirit. Jesus cast out dumb spirits; he didn't give them. Paul told the Corinthians, "You used to serve dumb idols, but now you're serving God with a Spirit that speaks. And everybody that speaks by the Spirit of God isn't calling Jesus accursed" (1Cor. 12:2-3). The holy Ghost doesn't say bad things about Jesus. When the multitude heard the followers of Christ speak in tongues on the Day of Pentecost, they recognized that they were glorifying God, not cursing Him. That's the real Spirit of God. No other spirit will save your soul. We need the body that is truly God's. We need the Spirit that is truly God's. The rest of it is worthless, and from this day, we have no part in it!

When I think about my upcoming trip to Israel this summer, I imagine meeting a Jew and him asking me if I am a Christian. It is a relief to me to know that from the bottom of my heart I can say, "No, sir. I am not. I'm a just follower of Jesus." "Christianity" to the Jews and the Muslims rightly means the crusades, where multiplied thousands of innocent Jewish babies and mothers and men were murdered by the Christian crusaders, as well as multiplied thousands of Muslims being slain in battle, or otherwise. Christianity means to them the Pope, who to this day does not even recognize Israel as a country. Christianity to them means the Bubonic plague that destroyed a third of Europe. You children, try to imagine this. Look around you, and try to imagine one of every three people you see here today, dead. That's how many died in Europe. And many Christians blamed that plague on the Jews. They tormented the Jews, they murdered them, and they confiscated their property. That's what Christianity means to the Jews. Being a "Christian" also means to the Jews that we believe in three gods. I do not. I still believe the truth. "Hear O, Israel the LORD thy God is one Lord. Serve Him with all your heart, mind, and strength." It would make me jump for joy to be able to tell a Jew in Israel, "I am *not* a Christian."

Here in this place, we will serve the God that Jesus bowed down to, and fear the God that Jesus said to fear; indeed, fear the God that Jesus himself feared, the God who made Jesus Lord of heaven and earth. We will fear the God before whom Jesus made request for the forgiveness of our sins. Jesus is the "one Lord" of Ephesians 4, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the "one God". Christianity doesn't believe that truth. Christianity has redefined those seven precious "ones" of Ephesians 4:4-6. That being the case, Christianity is not of God. Christianity doesn't believe there is one faith. It has about a thousand conflicting faiths under its umbrella. Christianity is a Romanized, perverted form of the gospel; it is not what Jesus came and died for.

Christianity is a lie. God is true. Christianity offers several different forms of water baptisms. I don't believe in any of them. I believe the baptism that the Son of God gives is the "one baptism" we need. "Christianity" is not mentioned in the Bible, and I don't want any part of it. Everything God has taught to me, every word of God that has ever come to me, has moved me farther from Christianity. He has rescued me from that abomination, and I am thankful not to be a Christian!

Last Sunday evening, Sister Sheila and I went for a walk, and as we talked, she told me that she overheard at work some ladies talking about her. She heard one of them tell the other one that "Sheila was a Christian lady." And Sheila said it made her skin crawl because she knew what that title, Christian, meant to the one listening and to the one talking, and she didn't want anything to do

with it. Now, today, Sheila, you understand why. Christianity is an abomination to God, and it is not the will of God that you partake of it. “Christian” is a title that worldly men in Antioch, not Jesus, gave to God’s people. In time, it became a popular thing among apostates to claim that title, but the apostles did not. A ruler in Acts called Paul a Christian, and Peter taught the saints that if they suffered as being Christians, not to argue about it but praise God instead. But he would have said the same thing if they suffered “as being fools”; Peter was not himself calling God’s people Christians!

I am utterly convinced today that being an humble servant of Jesus includes *not* being a Christian, that it includes following the Spirit and “coming out of her”. And the truth of the matter is that for the most part, when Christian missionaries travel all over the world to make converts, as the Pharisees once did, God gets nothing out of it. They are “an empty vine. They bear fruit to themselves.” How many of those “converts” are baptized by the Spirit into the real, the only, body of Christ? How many of them have been really born of the Spirit of God? The missionaries bring back to their sect’s headquarters their reports on how many they “got saved”, or how many they baptized with water, but when such converts to Christianity are made, they are twice as bad off as the Christian missionaries who converted them, and twice as confused.

[Uncle Joe speaks up and says, “I read yesterday that a certain group in this last year has won 50,000 souls to the Lord. I don’t believe it. If I was on my death bed, I wouldn’t believe it.”]

[Pastor John continues.] They might have won 50,000 souls to their religion – Christianity, but not to Christ. If they had won 50,000 souls to Christ, they would have had 50,000 people in one year filled with the Spirit and power of God, and there would have been a multitude standing around gazing at them, wondering what in the world was going on, the way the multitude did at Pentecost.

It is the religious system of Christianity that God is calling His people out of when He says, “Come out of her, my people!” But the sheep of God’s flock are hesitant, not sure of the voice they hear (it does sound strange), and fearful of reproach. Nevertheless, I want to get every one of God’s people out of Christianity that we can before they do like Judas and get too close in with the professional Redefiners (theologians), who condemn the just and justify the wicked. The religious system of Christianity offers you an appearance of righteousness. Christ offers you the real thing. Christianity offers you ministers who tell you that you are right with God. Christ offers you God’s witness of it, the holy Ghost. Christ offers you God and eternal life. Christianity offers you theological arguments and scriptures. Jesus offers you the Spirit that will tell you what the scriptures mean, and more than that, will tell you things that are not in the scriptures. It may be in the next generation, or the next, but I am telling you, Christianity is going to prove itself so filthy that God’s sincere people are going to have to abandon it or just give in to a very great evil. It’s just about that way now, but it’s not quite as bad as it’s going to be.

Now, I don’t want you to carry the burden any longer of trying to be a good Christian. In this place, we are not Christians at all. The truth has set us free. From this day, you’re free from the burden of trying to measure up to Christianity’s redefinition of righteousness. Just forget about it; it’s not worth your time.

[Uncle Joe: “Whatever he saith unto you, do it.”]

That’s the point. In the coming weeks, we are going to study afresh Jesus’ commandments. We are going to start in Matthew, and read from a new perspective everything Jesus said. We are going to look at his words, not with a view toward how they might fit in with Christianity, but how we measure up to them. And we are going to live by the word of God. Let’s please God. Let’s get to know God better and please Him better, now that we are “outside the camp”. We truly are “strangers

and pilgrims” on this earth. We are not Christians. We are followers of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God. And we “hate every false way”. Every one of them. And if God will help us, we are going to rescue our brothers and sisters from the terrible darkness of Christianity, the plague of the saints. But first of all, we ourselves have to make sure that we know God’s way so that we do not convert somebody to our own redefined faith of Christ.

So, I don’t want you to have any more worries about being a good Christian. Run from that, and just do what’s right in the sight of God. You are not Christians. When you received the baptism of God’s Spirit, He didn’t make you Christians; that’s something we all did on our own, thinking we were doing God’s will when we joined ourselves to that abomination. It’s good to find out what you are not. Then you can concentrate on what you are supposed to be. Then, don’t concentrate anymore, the rest of your lives, on trying to measure up to what people think being an obedient child of God is. If Jesus had done that, he would have failed.

Jesus was not a rebel. He obeyed the customs of God’s people, as long as those customs did not contradict anything God had said. He wore the same kind of clothes his friends wore. He didn’t have a halo around his head. Why, he couldn’t have hidden from the angry crowds as he did if he had a halo over his head; otherwise, the people could have said, “follow that halo!” Jesus was a normal-looking man. But when it came to serving God, nothing rivaled God’s word in his heart. He had the same kind of attitude my father had: just find out if it is God and let that be the end of the matter. You’ll be hated by religious people for doing that, but you’ll know the truth and you’ll be made free by it. Most people’s battle begins when they hear something from God. But if your heart is truly after the things of the Spirit, your battle ends when God shows you what is of Him.