

None Like Him

Joe Slater

Some people just naturally stand out from the rest. Of three individuals the Bible says there was “none like him.”

When Israel clamored for a king so they could be like the nations around them, God reluctantly gave them Saul, the son of Kish. The prophet Samuel anointed Saul and asked Israel, “*Do you see him whom the Lord has chosen, that **there is no one like him** among all the people?*” (1 Samuel 10:1, 24). What was so special about Saul? “*When he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward*” (10:23). Unfortunately, his fine physique didn’t make Saul a good king. He started out well but came to a disastrous end.

Hezekiah, unlike Saul, was renowned not for his good looks, but his godliness. “*He trusted in the Lord God of Israel, so that after him was **none like him** among the kings of Judah, nor who were before him*” (2 Kings 18:5). Hezekiah had inherited a kingdom mired down in the idolatry and immorality of his father, Ahaz. Despite his youth and regardless of the difficulty, Hezekiah instituted sweeping reforms to bring Judah closer to God.

Even better than Hezekiah was the patriarch Job. God Himself said of him, “***There is none like him** on the earth*” (Job 1:8a). What made him so exceptional? The Lord said he was “*a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil*” (1:8b). Job’s conduct was such that no one could successfully find fault with him. (His friends tried, but failed miserably!) Job’s reverence for God led him to shun wickedness.

Christians ought to stand out from the world. We may not have marvelous physiques, nor should that be our concern. Let us trust in the Lord like Hezekiah! Let us strive to be blameless and upright, reverencing God and shunning evil! May God say of us, “There is none like them!”

LET NO ONE STEAL YOUR JOY!

“Therefore you too have grief now; but I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you” (John 16:22 NASB).

Folks, I am clinging to the last part of that verse like a pool noodle in a raging river. So many things are trying to steal my joy. Recent days and months make it so tempting to become cynical, defensive, tribal, and hopeless. I urge you today not to give into those feelings.

I challenge you (and myself) to be stubbornly and defiantly optimistic. Rebel against the powers encouraging you to hate and judge your brother/sister and assume the worst about them. Protest against apathy and never surrender to the darkness. The dark forces are feeding on your hatred, jealousy, and fear. They are using them to gather more power for themselves to use against you. The only option is to starve them.

Render to Caesar what is Caesar's but NOT ONE second more of your time or one more drop of your passion. We must stand shoulder to shoulder and refuse to be moved. You may take our liberties, jobs, income, perhaps even our lives. But you will not take our joy and peace in Christ and His kingdom.

Our citizenship is in heaven. We are simply down here on a work visa. So let's be about our Father's business. If this sounds impossible or crazy, then we really need to talk. Let me tell you how to find that joy and peace. Not only for your benefit, but it will also help me retain it for myself in the telling.

Now is the time for Christians to truly examine themselves against the standard of the followers of Jesus in the first century. Are you/we up for it?

--Rob Lester (via Facebook)

Christians And Racism

Christianity was born into a world filled with racial prejudice. It occurred many times, but the most obvious was the attitude of the Jews toward Gentiles. Godliness abhors any assumed racial superiority! The Bible provides us with an “equalization factor”: “*All have sinned and come short of the glory of God*” (Romans 3:23). This is true regardless of race. The element of sin cuts across economic, racial and intellectual boundaries.

Christ brought equality, the basis of which is obedience, not skin coloration! Christ has broken down the wall between us (Ephesians 2:14-16), drawing mankind into one body by His death on the cross (Acts 17:26). God is no “*respector of persons,*” but He examines man based on his righteousness (Acts 10:34-35). God makes no distinction based on race and forbids such distinctions by us. In fact, He made a connection between every human being at creation, as proclaimed in Acts 17:26 – “*And has made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.*” Thus James taught, “*Hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ with respect of persons*” (2:1). In v. 9 he labeled discrimination as sin!

The blood of Christ is contacted in baptism, wherein all barriers are destroyed, with the obedient being made one in Christ (Galatians 3:26-28). Peter violated this principle, and Paul reprimanded him (Galatians 2:11). Observe how Jesus responded to all people (Luke 10:30) and let us be motivated to activate the “Golden Rule” by treating others as we want to be treated (Matthew 7:12). Humility will not allow us to treat any human being as inferior (Philippians 2:3). We must assume the disposition of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21-25).

The way we deal with this matter could cost us our eternal salvation!

--Mark N. Posey (via *Voice of Truth International*)