

## Luke 9:51-56 Jesus Loves Haters!

Little 5yr old Nicole was sent to her room one day for being Naughty – She pouted and was so angry -she decided to write her parents a note. She wrote. "Dear Mom and Dad: I hate you." And then she signed it, "Love, Nicole."

Nicole was confused about love and hate.

### Is there anything you hate?

A)I hate cooked peas – pretty much any mushy vegetable – I am not a fan of.

B)I hate commercials - Love DVR -torture to watch something with commercials – kids – spoiled

C)I hate traffic – I know Hell is going to be really bad - beyond what we could even imagine

D)But if Hell was bumper to bumper traffic – not moving at all – **the temperature was always 100 degrees with 90% humidity**

1)Your car has no AC And the radio didn't work - Punishment enough -Hell for me

E)Sitting in that everyday all day throughout all eternity –

1)My mind that would be really bad – **motivation to get saved – miss that**

Now if you really wanted to bring it up a notch –

A)The radio works but all it can play is Rap music or Metallica –

B)That is how much I hate traffic, metal and most Rap music

C)We all have things that we hate- right

1)Are there any people that you hate?

In our passage today we are going to see hatred and prejudice revealed in two of Jesus disciples.

A)And we will see today how Jesus deals with that hatred –

B)Title: Who does Jesus love? – Haters Luke, chapter 9, beginning in verse 51

"Now it came to pass, when the time had come for him to be received up, he [Jesus] steadfastly set his

face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before his face. And as they went, [the messengers] they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for him. But they did not receive him, because his face was set for the journey to Jerusalem."

"And when the disciples James and John saw this, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them, just as Elijah did?' But he turned and rebuked them, and said, 'You do not know what manner of spirit you are of. For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them.'

This, to me, is one of the more human and even more humorous stories in the NT

A)Two of Jesus disciples James and John,

B)who in fact, along with Peter made up the inner circle of Jesus –V.28 Mt of Transfiguration

C)Here we see James and John asking Jesus if he wants them to Nuke a city -

1) I believe it's because of this story that we read that Jesus gives them a nickname. Sons of Thunder

DC)John has been called the apostle of love but now he and his brother are coming across **like the Galilean Mafia.**

1)You want us to take them out.

E)These guys are on a role – Look back at V.49 John comes to Jesus and says – **we saw.... Demons ...name – Forbade him – Stop it** But Jesus said to him, "Do not forbid *him*, for he who is not against us is on our side."

F)Well these guys are on a role – now they want to blow up a whole city.

Now in order to understand what is going on here You do need to know a little bit of the background.

A)There had been for centuries a prejudice against the Samaritans by the Jews and vice versa.

B)There had been a long-standing rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans –

1)Dating back to the time of King Solomon, when the kingdom split

C)And Jeroboam put up a golden calf in Samaria

**And then that was compounded years later in 722 BC when the Assyrians took over the land,**

A) Repopulating it with foreigners from other captured countries,

B) And those Jews who were leftover began intermarry with those foreign people,  
1) so the bloodline was now polluted.

C) The People who became known as the Samaritans was the result of that

**And then was Complicated more by the fact that when the Jews returned down south to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple**

A) And the Samaritans offered to help, the Jews in Jerusalem said, "**No. You're not going to help us.**"  
**½ breads**

B) That only increased the animosity -and made the divide even greater  
1) So while the Jews were rebuilding their temple in Jerusalem –

C) the Samaritans built a rival temple on their own MT - Mt Gerizim –

D) The Samaritans are a people with a past – intermarrying with pagans  
1) People caught up in Idolatry – false worship -

E) So now you are getting the picture of this great long standing animosity

**So Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem, the center of Jewish worship.**

A) Our text says Jesus steadfastly set **his face for the journey to Jerusalem.**"

**B) Steadfastly set = no distractions – On a mission**

1) The idea is like when a guy goes shopping – He has a mission - get in and out of the store as fast as possible – not distracted

C) So the Samaritans can tell he is not going to be staying long in their city – they take offense to it

**Well James and John pick up on the body language – the attitude of the Samaritans – “Lord do you want us to call down fire from heaven” – nuke them**

A) I have to chuckle that they actually thought they could do this

**B) Like some dude insults my wife – and my 4 year old grandson Josiah says – do you want me to beat them up Pappy – Chuckle**

1) Big FAITH RIGHT

C) Big faith – but the wrong heart! - Jesus isn't amused at all –

Now some Christians today would unfortunately applaud James and John – Yea Nuke him

A) Get rid of those liberal pagan Samaritans – They deserve to be fried

B) Unfortunately there are some professing Christians who might act like that

1) But not you guys – or At least I hope not you guys

C) So How does DEAL WITH the hatred and prejudice in his disciples? Note 3 things

**#1 He rebukes them**

A) Jesus--hears what they said, - **He turned around and he rebuked them."**

Revelation 3, Jesus says, "**As many as I love, I rebuke and I chasten."**

B) So the very fact that Jesus is rebuking them is not a sign that he is mad at them –  
1) but it more of the sign of his love.

C) He is going to call out this bad attitude - He is not going to let it reside in them –

D) He loves them and so he is calling them out on their horrible attitude.

**Lesson here: It is possible to have great zeal for the Lord and use it in the worst of ways!**

A) the most unholy and unchristian of ways

B) And This incident also shows our propensity to misuse the Scriptures to justify our own sinful anger.

1) **Note phrase– like Elijah did**

C) James and John thought that they were acting in the spirit of Elijah,

D) who called down fire to consume the messengers of the wicked King Ahaziah who came to arrest him

1)50 men – consumed – another 50 -same thing

E)James and John were like – Elijah did it – what about us

1))So Jesus rebuked them! –

The 2<sup>nd</sup> thing that Jesus does in dealing with their hatred and prejudice is he Challenged their attitude: 'You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.

A)Now think about this: Samaritan worship was false worship, it was cultic worship,

**B) and yes it was dishonoring to God!!!!**

C)But the disciples' suggestion and intent was equally dishonoring to God.

**In essence what Jesus is saying you have the Scripture in your head?**

A)You know that Bible. – you remember the story

B)You boys have a great memory, but you have a bad motive - your heart is all wrong!

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

<sup>2</sup> And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13

C)God is not impressed by our pseudo spirituality

D)Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14 -Knowledge puffs up – love builds up

**How many times have we seen especially in the last 24 months – people use the Bible in a way that didn't resemble the heart of God at all**

A)Only brought Division in the body of Christ.

**B)QUESTION: Do our attitudes resemble the heart of God?**

1)That is the big question – the most important question.

C)Think back upon this past week – this past month – year – How many times might of Jesus said to us: **You don't know what manner of Spirit you are of!**

D)Because what is coming out of you – your heart – your mouth – was not **HIS** heart at all!!!!

**Now someone might protest –“I don't know what the big deal is. I just like to speak my mind**

A)Sure I blow up sometimes and then it's done.

B)So does a shotgun! So does a Grenade- See what damage they do!

C)Leave big wholes everywhere. They leave great destruction everywhere.

D)We have to be careful with our words – and we will be held accountable for our words.

E)Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks – revealing your heart

**Been said your attitude is the rudder that controls everything in your life,**

A)It controls what you SAY and what you DO

**B))I'm convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to you, and 90 percent how you respond.**

C)I know that the 10 percent can be really difficult sometimes.

**Some of you are going through some heavy things right now.**

A)But every day we have a choice as to how we are going to see the things.

B)And how we are going to respond to things

1)We can respond in a way that brings life to others, or we can respond in a way that brings death to others

C)We can respond in a way that honors Jesus or we can respond in ways that bring dishonor to Jesus

**That leads us to point #3 - He rebuked them. /He challenged their attitude**

**A)#3 He wanted them to see the big picture Verse 56, Jesus says, "For the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them."**

B) Jesus was saying: I am not mad at the Samaritans – I love them and my face is set like a stone to go to Jerusalem – die for them.

C) James and John were blinded by their hatred and prejudice?

**But Jesus saw the Samaritans in a completely different way than the disciples did.**

A) They weren't people to be blown up – they were people he wanted to save.

B) Jesus wanted to Rescue the Samaritans

C) Jesus saw the Samaritans in a whole different light and perspective

**Whenever we meet somebody-our natural human nature, is to sort of size them up in our minds**

A) We look at what they're wearing, - Vibe

B) We form our opinions – that guy is well put together – he looks successful –

1) That guy/gal – not so much

**Sometimes we see race – White, black, Hispanic oriental**

A) We see sexual preference – Homosexual or Lesbian or Straight

B) Suggestion - How about we strip all of that away—so that all we see is a person.

1) That is a person created in the image of God and God has a purpose for that life.

C) No matter who the person is the Bible tells us that Sin wrecked the image and the purpose – marred

**But Jesus came to restore the image –**

A) Make us a new creation in him – old things have passed away – all things became new

B) Guys what would happen if we saw every person that way – person made in the image of God

C) Instead of Blue or Red – Republican or Democrat – person who has been created in the image of God

**Listen when we only see the outward and we only see Red or blue – we get angry – hateful**

A) Jesus says – you don't know what spirit you are of right now but it is not my spirit

B) Jesus lived at a time when the GOVT was evil and oppressive – but that wasn't his focus

1) His focus was hearts

**Listen when we say or think things like –**

A) That unbelieving person is beyond redemption

B) A wayward child is a “lost cause”

1) A student is “hopeless”

C) A church member is not as committed because they don't share our passions

D) When we are more concerned about our political preferences than someone's salvation.

**Jesus would say to us: You don't know what spirit you are of**

A) You are looking at them all wrong. – Not my heart!

B) You need to see them the way that I do – Have my mind and heart Big picture: is –

1) I want them to be saved.

**Don't get me wrong – Politics are important – they have their place –**

A) Important to vote and some are called to serve in that way.

B) City Councils, School Board – friend who is running for Governor in her state – AWESOME

1) Politics are important they have their place

C) We need voices who are seeking to protect the freedoms that have been fought for in this country

**D) But here is the big Picture: Politics are not the Answer – JESUS IS!**

1) He is the only hope for this wayward world

**Podcast interview with David Guzik – talking Revival -Is another revival possible ?**

A) Reason for that question- Is if we believe that we are living in the last days

B) and that the coming of Jesus is getting closer

C)War in Europe – but beyond that – think the Bible says – the last days will be marked by:

- 1)Love of many will grow cold
- 2)Lawlessness will abound
- 3)People will depart from the faith ‘
- 4)People doing what they think is best
- 5)Teachers tell them what they want to hear

#### D)Days of Noah – Days of Sodom

- 1)Violence in cities
- 2)Rampant Sexual immorality
- 3)Growing Homosexuality

E)Everything is pointing to the fact that we are living in the days that the Bible spoke of – last days

1)Thing would be getting worse in the world

#### Is Revival possible: His answer was profound –

A)He said Yes – I hope and pray for it – But it will look different than any other

B)The Light is going to brighter – Church stands for Jesus – unbelievers are radically saved

C)So the Light is going to get brighter, but the darkness is going to get darker and even more antagonistic

D)Guys we are heading in that direction right now.

E)Pray - Lord give us your eyes and heart toward the people around us!

#### So How does Jesus deal with haters?

A)He rebukes them – he challenges their attitude

B)He wants them to see the Big picture

#### Good news from this story – James and John got the message

A)By the time we get to Acts ch 8, we find John and Peter in Samaria preaching the gospel to the Samaritans

B)And a revival breaks out in Samaria. – How awesome is that

C)What would have happened if they would have nuked that village?

D)There'd be no Samaritans to hear the gospel and be saved.

1)God's purpose would have been totally eliminated.

E)But they heard what Jesus was saying – took it to heart – and not long after this –

1)They would be go there to bring the Life -giving message of Jesus to that city and Revival broke out.

#### The Book of Acts chronicles the work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the church of Jesus Christ – and the spread of the gospel in the world

A)In one sense we could say that it is the only part of the story that is still being written

B)The Holy Spirit working in and through believers today

C)We could be the last generation – privilege and responsibility

D)Question - What is our chapter going to look like? How is it going to read – Our time in history?

E)Church focused on the heart of Jesus ? – reaching the lost?

1)Or the church blowing up things? And people?

#### Living at a time when the church is more divided than it has ever been.

A)I wonder if Jesus might say to the church today – you don't know what spirit you are of.

B)Important that we stand for truth – essential –

C)But a lot of our division is on things that don't matter

D)This broke my heart – brother wearing a mask –

1)No!!!! – we have to be better than that.

E)That was a brother – but what if it was an unbeliever – Christians are so unloving

#### Question - will you surrender your pre-conceived ideas about others to the purpose of God ?

A)Will you start looking at people differently? See them the way that Jesus does?

B)Let's ask ourselves, "Are my prejudices or my preconceived ideas standing in the way of God's purpose for someone else?"

**C)Are my words standing in the way of God's purposes for someone else?**

**D)Is my attitude standing in the way of God's purpose for someone else?**

**Good questions to be asking ourselves as we head toward Easter -**

**A)People we should be praying for – inviting –**

**B)Reminded Second Peter: "[God] is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."**

**Maybe you are here today – you are like the Samaritans –**

**A)YOU have a past – that isn't pretty**

**B)Other things in your life have had a higher priority than God**

**C)Know this: Jesus loves you – He died to save you of your sin**

**1)Forgiveness – guilt removed – freedom  
LIFE –**

**Pray –**

**We who are the church need to check our hearts**