

## Jesus –a Look behind the Scenes

“God became dissatisfied with His relationship with His people Israel on two counts that were interrelated: 1) His people did not know Him as intimately as He desired; and 2) they were in general only an outwardly righteous people. They would often fail even in their outward show of righteousness because their inner man (their heart) was not changed from its old sinful nature, the nature that all men have inherited from Adam. The Law had brought a certain outward conformity to God's standards, but it had failed to make them a truly righteous nation. That is, they did not have a righteousness that started on the inside and manifested itself outwardly in their daily activities.” (Txbk. Lesson One)

We fail at times to fully take into our minds and ways of thinking what Jesus came to earth to accomplish. He did not come only to save mankind. That without a shred of doubt was the prime reason, but there was another task, subordinate to, and interrelated with the prime reason, for which He endured all the indignities entailed in the metamorphosis of divinity becoming human: Jesus came to set mankind on the pathway of holiness that leads from practically no literal likeness to Christ to becoming – finally – the literally perfect man.

*“...the Way of Holiness is by no means a static state in which there is no progression, no movement. It is, rather, a dynamic state; in fact it is as the name implies: it is a Way devoted to Christ (the only literally holy Person ever) from the starting point to the finish line. You cannot travel the Way of True Holiness by doing nothing. If you do nothing, you will slowly begin to lose your place in the Way and start sliding downhill because the path of True Holiness is an uphill push that requires a continual push forward and upward against the pull of gravity, if you want to make consistent progress.” (Smith, 2007)*

As surely as God lives and as surely as Jesus lived and died and rose again, God wants – and He will undoubtedly get – a holy people. They will be – no, they *are* – a people who, despite not being perfect, are pressing resolutely toward that cherished goal. Jesus did more than die for sinners; He additionally suffered in the most awesome and gruesome way to wash them and prepare them for further sanctification and purging – and what is the purpose for this rigorous regimen? That God may make them perfectly whole and perfectly able to stand in His august Presence in heaven where the obfuscating veil of our mortal flesh shall be forever stripped from the face of His glory. I am sure no halfhearted service we offer God in this present life will be pleasing to Him; this is the Christ to whom the writer of Hebrews referred:

“(7) Who in the days of his flesh, having offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and having been heard for his godly fear,  
(8) though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered;  
(9) and having been made perfect [as the human Son of God], he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation...” (Heb 5:7-9 RV)

In case you had not noticed, the Scripture above is reinforcing the fact that Jesus had two natures within Him, the human and the divine. Verse 8 refers to Him as a *Son (human)*, and of course we know already that Jesus was God (divine) who had assumed the form of a man.

Now, moving on – I must confess that we know relatively little about the divine nature of the Man Christ Jesus, but then, whatever we know about God we also know the same about the divine nature of Jesus, which of course was God. And it stands to reason that we know more about Jesus' human nature than the divine, although at times we confuse the two natures because we do not always discern to which nature, divine or human, the current circumstances in Jesus' life are pertinent.

There are three places in Scripture that show us that Jesus was in truth a man of strong emotions. They are: 1) In the Garden of Gethsemane (verse 7 above) "he...offered up prayers and supplications *with strong crying and tears,*" 2) at the tomb of Lazarus where "Jesus wept," not for Lazarus whom Jesus would soon resurrect, but for all humanity. God is not so far above the arena of human woes that He reigns aloof, alone and unmoved by our human condition. When we hurt, He hurts: it grieves Him when we are in pain even though we brought it on ourselves and also that it is a grievous stroke essential to our redemption.

The longer I live the more the population of this sin-cursed orb increases while at the same time the news media is like a blanket covering the world, seeking out the smallest injustices and the greatest events occurring in this teeming mass of humanity. Based on what I read and hear via the news media, I am convinced the groans and tears of mankind far outweigh their laughter and joy. But whether they shed tears of sorrow or emit grateful sighs in the unspeakable joy enfolding them, they who feel no emotion and who are not persons of passion do not know Jesus intimately and personally.

Jesus was an imperturbable, calm Man who knew from where He came and knew exactly what He was doing at all times; but wash completely out of your mind that He was not a Person of passion. Passion does not indicate a lack of self-control; on the contrary, passion is a matter of will. It is a deliberate giving of yourself to the intense feelings called for by the occasion. It is a calculated immersing of yourself in the fervor that life, especially this holy life, demands.

If you walk close to the Galilean, your emotions will run deep. This is not to say your emotions will physically surface at every setback you sustain or every favor bestowed on you by God. Jesus was continually blessed with an intimate association with His Father, yet He did not walk around jumping and shouting His way through life, nor did He go through His brief life a mute, woe begone figure frightened speechless by what His divine nature revealed to His humanity about the fearsome agony it would soon experience. But make no mistake: the passion was there, stronger than any emotion we can experience in this life-and-death drama in which we are inextricably entwined.

There can be no question that Jesus was emotionally involved in the lives swirling around Him. These lives, the *debased sinners* of His once pristine Creation, were the sole reason Jesus came to this renegade planet. He was under a mandate by the love within Him to suffer and die for them otherwise they would have to undergo the same horrible torment for unending ages. The knowledge of who He was and the excruciating pain He would have to endure would have completely overwhelmed a lesser man and, in so doing, would have destroyed and left His total mission to earth in a shambles along with all hope for mankind. But Jesus was indeed one of a kind. He was a large "vessel" that could contain His feelings without their continually spilling over in melodramatic fashion. The graphic scenes in Gethsemane and at Calvary were not melodrama; they were divine, gripping drama that should touch every human heart and sear into its quickened flesh the brand of its Owner: "JC" - Jesus Christ.