

FRUIT OF BIBLICAL PREACHING

Anyone who has ever preached in public has been told that we are not doing it right and they say this because of the reaction of those we are preaching too. Most believers assume that open air preaching is the same as teaching those in a Church and that is where they error greatly.



I would like to give you a Biblical view on what happened in a city or to a crowd that gathered to listen to men of God that proclaimed God's word in public. God told Jonah;

"Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I BID THEE"

Now if they have issues with the messenger, THEY HAVE ISSUES WITH GOD, for He was the one that send them to speak something on His behalf as found in th verse above.

Jeremiah the prophet was also told:

"Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them"

God told Jeremiah (1:19) what to expect from those he was going to preach against as he warned him saying; **"And they shall fight against you; but they shall not prevail against you; for I am with you, says the LORD, to deliver you."** And it was so, as the very people he preached at REACTED after hearing those words. The naysayers to plotted against him, he was attacked, beaten and put into the stocks by a priest and false prophet, imprisoned by the king, threatened with death, thrown into a cistern by Judah's officials, he was opposed by the prophet community, even the people of Anathoth sought to kill him and he was a laughingstock and the target of mockery as per 20:7.

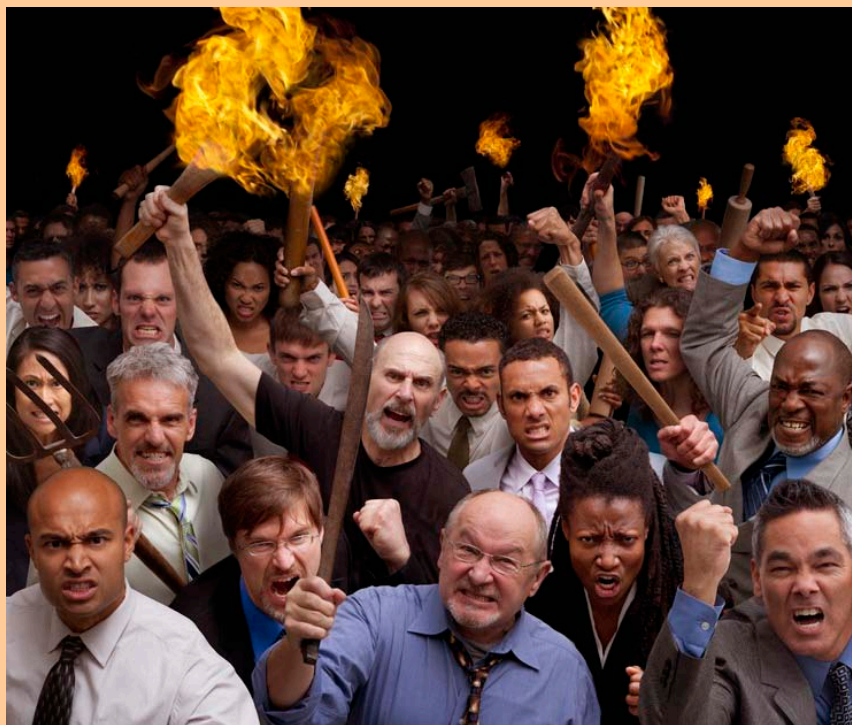
Sound familiar, thought you were the only one that happens too?



Ezekiel the prophet was also told;

“And you shall speak my words to them, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear: for they are most rebellious”

Whether they listen or won't listen, Ezekiel must go and preach to these rebellious people, as this should be our motive. Just preach what God says not come up with a better way or change that message to a positive one. God is not into positive messages, as Moses came down the mountain with those 10 Commandments, filled with **“Thou shalt not”** as that was not very upbeat.



So one can conclude that the response from those people that were preached too was not kin to a revival meeting, but rather it was a grab the torch and pitch forks and let's get this guy out of town.

A good example is found in the book of Revelation chapter 11, where we find the two witnesses, let us not worry about who they are, the fact is these two candlesticks who walked around in sackcloth and had fire proceed from their mouths and anyone that tried to **'hurt them'** would be **'killed.'** Wow and people complain about my preaching being hard? These men have the power to shut heaven that it not rain, and turn water into blood. I'm sure these guys were told that they are doing it all wrong as Jesus turned water into wine NOT BLOOD. At will, they could smite the earth with all plagues. Can we conclude that these men have power? So why not have these guys turn into Joel Osteen or Robert Schuller and have the power to smile. I mean if God really wants to save mankind, doesn't that way work?

Now after these two saints were put to death, the entire earth rejoiced, even passed out gifts and left their bodies in the street for three in a half days. THEN THIS VERSE;

“And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth.”

You will not find this verse used at seminary or in a seminar on how to evangelize.

Did you read that? These guys **TORMENTED THEM THAT DWELT ON THE EARTH.....**now king Jimmy used the word '**TORMENT**' maybe there is a mistake, perhaps we need another translation that will use another word, a softer word?

Would TBN, Joel Osteen, Joyce Meyers, Benny Hinn, Robert Schuller or Creflo Dollar or any TV evangelist ever torment people with their joyful, positive style? Has Ray Comfort ever tormented his listeners with "Have you ever lied" gospel? This agony to those hearing the preacher is fruit of real God ordained preaching and most believers are concerned that we turn people off or we don't preach enough love, mercy and grace. Let me say this again, as I have said this for years. I do not care if I offend an entire city, as I am more concerned with offending God and what He wants spoken.



The feedback from these two witnesses was that they tormented those ears and if you do not see that in your preaching, YOU HAVE FAILED.

Another open air preacher we find is Stephen, in Acts chapter seven. Now keep in mind that Stephen was not an evangelist as his job was to feed certain people in the Church. However we find him open air preaching as he gave a good history lesson of the children of Israel and ended with these words;

"Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers

persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers"

....and here is the REACTION from the crowd;

"When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth"

Now one would think that anyone who had wisdom like Stephen and was full of the Holy Ghost as Stephen was, should have quoted a John 3:16 or mention the 'love of God' at least once in his public sermon. Maybe our beloved Stephen had a bad hair day or would have been better off in the kitchen since he was not an evangelist? The crowd reacted with hatred towards Stephen and his message, so much that they killed him with stones. Stephen who was ordained to feed people did not die by slipping on a banana in the kitchen, but was killed for preaching what God wanted.

NEED MORE?



In Genesis chapter 6 we read about a man named Noah he was a **"just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God"** and the world Noah lived pure evil as **"the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually"** so God sent Noah to warn his world as

Noah was a **'preacher of righteousness'** as found in 2 Peter 2:5. As Noah preached to his world the only ones that heeded were his family. Not much fruit, no one saved, he failed the way we judge street preachers today. Maybe he could have been more productive if he and his sons had a band and sang people into the ark or made a dinner and changed his message, could have filled that wooden ship. Maybe Noah should built an Church instead and just invited people to the service or perhaps just prayed for those sinners and show them God's love by his actions.

The crowd RESPONSE in the theater Noah lived where he preached righteousness, was they didn't listen, as they ate, drank and were merry engaging in their sin.

**The hatred from those who hear the Word of God is as normal as breathing.
This is the rule and not the exception.**

The prophet Amos understood this reaction from those people he preached too as he wrote;
"They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly"

The gate was a main artery into the city and if you speak uprightly or preserving the standard of God, you will be hated as fruit from your preaching. Perhaps Amos could have been 'thanked more' if he only tickled their ears, told a joke, maybe offered free water or used a tract table to convey a message. But instead, he did it the way God wanted it, rebuking people at the gate.

Well what about Jesus Ruben? He preached love and tolerance right, I mean people love him as He was not a bully, so Jesus should be our example.

Oh really, Jesus forewarned the disciples of the world's effect IF they testified that the world is wicked. Conclusion, they will be hated.

"The world cannot hate you; but me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil"



In Mark chapter 5 we have all read the story of the man who had a legion of demons living inside of him and who lived in a graveyard, well after those demons cast out of the man, he was normal, dressed and sitting down with Jesus. However the people of Gadarenes reacted in this manner; **"And they began to pray him to depart out of their coasts"**

Other reactions caused by Jesus were;

"And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath sought how they might destroy him"

Plotting on how to destroy Him, that is strong language used.

"After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him"

According to our Lord, getting hated is evidence that you are preaching against sin. This is why God does not want us to be a friend of the world, because we are a friend of the world, we will withhold what we need to say. Jesus understood this and tried to pass this along to the 12 and not only did Jesus warn them of this crowd reaction, but we have examples of this in the Gospels. What an interesting verse as Jesus could not walk openly because Jews wanted Him dead for saying something they did not like.

“However, no man spoke openly of him for fear of the Jews”

The Jews can be very cruel people, the worst beating I've personally have received as Christian for street preaching was given to me by the Jews. Once during 'Passover' we preached outside their Temple in Los Angeles and the rabbi came out and yelled "I wish I was there when they hung your Jesus on the cross, as I would have driven another nail on His forehead just to watch that blood gush out from Him." These are not innocent people that only come to mind as persecuted by Hitler.

“Why go you about to kill me?”

People wanted to kill Jesus for what He said and it was not 'God loves you.'

“And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way”

This mob was so upset they tried to toss him off of a hill.

“Peter answered and said to him, Though all men shall be offended because of you, yet will I never be offended”

All men will be offended. Jesus is an offensive to those in darkness



Jesus warned the 12 of the consequence of their listeners;

“Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake”

Where do we get being a Christian today means you will liked by everyone, live prosperous and must be tolerant of everyone? If I may give you true Christianity, unrefined and raw. The New covenant started off with John the Baptist preaching repentance and rebuking the religious community of his day. He was jailed for rebuking the king for sleeping with his brother's wife and was later beheaded for a foolish promise. Then we have Judas who betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, while the 10 disciples ran off, with one that even denied that he even knew Jesus. Our Lord, our king was nailed on a cross and was mocked as he died in a dump site. His followers were also jailed and persecuted for their faith and ten of them were put to death.

Peter died upside down on a cross

Andrew was severely scourged & tied by ropes on x-shaped cross where he hung 2 days

James was beheaded with sword

Philip was crucified

Bartholomew was beaten/flayed and crucified head-down

Thomas was burned up in an oven

Simon was crucified

Jude was crucified

James was thrown down from the Temple tower & not dead so clubbed to death

Matthew was axed to death with a halberd

Matthias (the man who replaced Judas) was stoned and beheaded

Stephen was martyred for preaching

Paul was beheaded

John was boiled in oil and sent to live the rest of his life on an Island.

There is no doubt that something is wrong with the modern day Church when compared to the early church and how they preached



Here are verses found in the book of Acts as what happened in these cities where the Apostles preached in public.

“And the same time there arose no small stir about that way”

“And all the city was moved, and the people ran together: and they took Paul, and drew him out of the temple”

“For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me”

“And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians”



“And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word”

“And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre”

“For we are in danger to be called in question for this day's uproar, there being no cause whereby we may give an account of this concourse”

“And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed to go into Macedonia”



“And there arose a great cry: and the scribes that were of the Pharisees' part arose, and strove”

“And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain of the band, that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Who immediately took soldiers and centurions,

and ran down unto them: and when they saw the chief captain and the soldiers, they left beating of Paul”

“But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people”

No small stir, the entire city filled with confusion, riots and uproars. All as a result of men open air preaching, this was the reaction to that preaching.

Paul understood this mob reaction as he wrote:

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?”

“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.”

“We are fools for Christ's sake....we are despise....we are naked....are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace....Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day”



The writer in Hebrews wrote;

“For they could not endure that which was commanded”

Isaiah the prophet once said to God;

“Who has believed our report?”

Because the people he preached to did not listen

Bottom line, from Genesis to Revelation, when men of God preached as what God wanted them to say in public, they always had a negative reaction to those who heard those words. No one listened, they were arrested, jailed, put in chains, beaten, persecuted, fled for their lives, were considered a misfit, they were killed for those very words AND now we learned they tormented their audience.



Welcome to the world of Biblical preaching, where we are proud to be a tormenter and bully for Jesus.

God to Ezekiel;

"Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads"

STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO PREACH AND PREACH IT

