



SERIES: WE ARE FREE (A Study of Galatians)

RUN: NOV. 2-27, 2020

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Scripture: Galatians 4:12-16

Monday, 11/09/20

TITLE: Live Like Jesus!

Quote: *We need to be living a life that is more like Christ and less like our old selves.*

When have you felt most betrayed? Was it when a best friend in school ignored you in the hallway never to connect again? Was it the rejection of a spouse after years of faithful marriage? Was it the rejection of a child after you said “no more” to helping them out? Or was it when someone turned their back on you because of your faith?

Paul knew the feeling of being rejected and didn’t like it. But he didn’t like it for the right reasons. What do I mean? Listen to Paul’s words in Galatians 4:12-16 (ESV):

Brothers, I entreat you, **become as I am**, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. ¹³ You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, ¹⁴ and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. ¹⁶ Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?

Paul didn’t mince words. He said what he meant, and he meant what he said. Paul is taken aback by his friends and his spiritual family’s decisions. He says, “Have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?” What’s the story here?

Well, in verse 12, he says, “become as I am.” Paul was a strict Jew... a Pharisee... a religious zealot. He was committed to the Mosaic Law... the list of do’s and don’ts. He lived by them. He played the game of religion and he was good at it. But he gave it up. That’s why he said, “become as I am.” He gave up the game of trying to earn his way to God. He quit trying to tip the cosmic scales. He realized he couldn’t. His friends heard that story. They believed the story. They believed the Gospel, but now they’ve turned their back on it. They’ve turned their back on Paul.

We see people rejecting the Gospel all the time. We see people rejecting Christians because of our beliefs all the time. Paul could have said, “Oh man, I messed up! I want you to be my friend. Believe whatever works for you.” But he doesn’t. Christ said, “People will reject you because they rejected me first.” So we know it’s going to happen. The key for us is to be rejected for the right reasons. We need to be living a life that is more like Christ and less like our old selves.

How we live matters. How we live either points people to Christ... magnifies Christ so others can see Him clearly... or we distort the Gospel by our lives. We make Christ look like a snake-oil salesman selling fake medicine.

Today, choose to follow Jesus. Choose to obey Jesus. Listen to the true Gospel. When we do this, it’s true, many will reject it... but others will see Christ clearly. That is what motivates me.