

The Misunderstood Jesus

(Ephesians 5:17)

- Introduction:
1. Have you ever heard a child say, "You did that on purpose!"
 2. Have you ever sought to help someone and be accused of being judgmental?
 3. Have you ever been kind to someone only to have someone accuse you of ulterior motives?
 4. Have you ever said the words, "That's not what I meant"?
 5. If so, you understand what it's like to be misunderstood.
 6. Few people have walked on this planet who were as misunderstood as Jesus.
 7. In this lesson, I want to offer a few suggestions for when you are misunderstood (John 15:18-21).

I. Jesus Was Constantly Misunderstood

- A. His person was misunderstood (Matthew 16:13-17).
- B. His birth was misunderstood (Matthew 1:19).
- C. His power was misunderstood (Mark 3:22).
- D. His ministry was misunderstood (Mark 3:20-21).
- E. His kingdom was misunderstood (Acts 1:6).
- F. His demands were misunderstood (Matthew 7:21; 10:34-39).
- G. His death was misunderstood (1 Corinthians 1:18,23).

II. How Should We Handle Being Misunderstood?

- A. Soak it in, feel the injustice of it, and remember what it feels like so you don't do it to others (1 Corinthians 13:7).
- B. Don't quit or get side-tracked by it (Nehemiah 6:1-9).
- C. Guard your tongue (James 1:19).
- D. Pray and do good for those who are misrepresenting you (Romans 12:17-20).

- Conclusion:
1. Bottom line, when you're misunderstood – be like Jesus!
 2. "...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps...who when he was reviled, did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed himself to him who judges righteously" (1 Peter 2:21, 23).