

THE APOCALYPSE OF JESUS BEATS OUR BULLIES

TODAY'S QUESTION: How do we beat our bullies?

SERIES QUESTION: Why the revelation?

REVIEW: Revelation is the Greek word "apocalypse".

> A sudden opening of heaven that changes our daily reality.

SERIES THEME: We are the people of the apocalypse living everyday in the revelation of Jesus Christ

> Urgent messages for people under pressure.

▶ In Thyatira they had a bully right in the Church and Jesus called her "_____"! She was intimidating, misleading, and corrupting people.

> A "Jezebel" is any spiritual bully who tries to intimidate, humiliate, or dominate others.

TODAY'S TEXT: Revelation 2:18 - 29

TODAY'S THEME: We live in the Revelation of Jesus and we do not _____ bullies who intimidate, humiliate, or dominate

"We learn from this message ... that tolerance is not a biblical virtue."
- Discipleship on the Edge, Darrell Johnson, p. 80

I. WE WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY OUR _____!

A. WE ARE INTIMIDATED THROUGH OUR FEAR

> Bullies intimidate through fear.

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Question: Are you tolerating a bully in your life?

- > Jezebel was an Old Testament bully.
 - See I Kings 16, 18, 19, 21 & II Kings 9
- > Everybody was afraid of her.
- > The good Christians in Thyatira were being bullied.
 - By their society

- > They were also tolerating a Jezebel in the Church.
 - Their Church was being wrecked by a charismatic, persuasive _____ teacher.

Question: Why were they tolerating this bully? Were they afraid of offending her? Afraid of being intolerant? Of appearing unloving?

B. JESUS SETS US _____ FROM FEAR

Today's Question: How do we beat our bullies?

Answer: We live under the penetrating _____ of the _____ of Jesus.

- ▶ The Son of God sees and knows everything!
 - > Jesus sees and knows everything that threatens you.
 - Psalm 139:1ff, 23
- ▶ We have nothing to fear! Jesus sees it all and is committed to _____ and _____ every evil that intimates and attacks His Church.
 - v. 23b
- > The message of the revelation is: Do not be intimidated by evil!
 - II Timothy 1:6, 7, 8

II. WE WILL NOT BE _____ BY OUR SIN!

A. WE ARE HUMILIATED BY OUR SIN

- ▶ A bully's plan is to humiliate and _____.
- > We become victims when we feel _____ and dirty.
- > Jezebel brought sin and disgrace on _____.
- > The Jezebel in Thyatira victimized and disgraced the Church.
- > Sin disgraces and bullies the Church into _____.

Question: What does the Church have to say to the world when the sin of the world is in the Church?

B. JESUS _____ US FROM OUR SIN

- ▶ The blazing fire of the eyes of Jesus _____ into our hearts, bringing us to repentance and cleansing of our sins.
 - > Revelation is a constant call to _____.
 - 2:5, 16; 3:3, 19; 9:20; 16:9, 11
- ▶ The eyes of Jesus are to be _____ not avoided.

- > This is the cleansing fire!
 - I John 1:7, 9

▶ His cleansing fire destroys the _____ power to bully and humiliate us!

III. WE WILL NOT BE _____ BY OUR WORLD!

A. WHEN THE BULLIES RULE, WE LOSE

- > Bullies seek to _____ and control.
- > Israel had surrendered to Jezebel's power.
- > The Church in Thyatira was tolerating a "Jezebel".

▶ Satan's _____ is behind every human struggle.

- > The Devil is a bully!
 - Ephesians 6:11,12

B. WHEN JESUS RULES, WE _____

- v.18b (1:15; 2:26, 27)

▶ Revelation is the ultimate _____ of Jesus!

- 11:15

- > The burning bronze feet of Jesus are a statement that all other powers will ultimately crumble under their own weight and will be _____ under the feet of Jesus.
 - Genesis 3:15; Daniel 2:34,35,44)

Today's Question: How do we beat our bullies?

Answer: By _____ in the victory of Jesus, forever and ever!

CONCLUDING QUESTIONS: Are you being bullied? Is this a dark time? Is the Morning Star living in your heart? • v.28; 22:16; II Peter 1:19

~ LIFEGROUP STUDY GUIDE ~

Open by telling stories about times you felt you were bullied or observed others being bullied.

Read Revelation 2:18 – 29 and discuss what you understand about the Church tolerating a "Jezebel".

- > Do you see any parallels today?
- > Is it possible that we might tolerate bullies in the Church?
- > What do you think about the following quotation?

"We learn from this message ... that tolerance is not a biblical virtue. Patience is. Understanding is. Civility is. Graciousness is. Mercy is. Humility is. But not tolerance." "The Church of Jesus Christ is to be an `inclusive' community ... all are welcome! But the Church is not to be inclusive of all ideas ... all social and spiritual persuasions. All are welcome, but all of us are then called by the Head of the Church to repent, to change our minds, to submit our thinking to the thinking of Jesus Christ."

- Discipleship on the Edge, D. Johnson, p. 80

Re-read Revelation 2:18 & 23.

- > What does it mean to you that these are the words of "the Son of God whose eyes are like blazing fire" and that He says "I am the one who searches hearts and minds." (See also Jeremiah 17:9,10)
- > Can you describe a time that you experienced the blazing, searching eyes of Jesus?

Re-read Revelation 2:18 & 27.

- > What does it mean to you that these are the words of "the Son of God ... whose feet are like burnished bronze"?
- (Check out Daniel's interpretation of the dream of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2:31-35, 44,45. Also see Genesis 3:15.)

Close in prayer for each other and your families. Pray that each one will live in victory as we hold Jesus in our hearts as our bright Morning Star (v.28, also 22:16 & II Peter 1:19).