

OPINION: THE ENEMY OF FAITH



Standing for Rightness
Ramone Romero

The church door opened and out they came with their eyes burning and their jaws set.

The stirring sermon had fired up the folks for another week.

They knew what they had to do as Christians in a world that no longer shared their values.

One question:

Will the world see Jesus in their fired-up lives?

Over the centuries faith has often been replaced by opinion in the lives of Christians.

...As when the priest, in his Good Friday sermon, encouraged the believers to "go after the Christ killers!" The church doors would fly open and the believers would march through the village, smashing windows in Jewish homes and burning their synagogue.

The priest fired them up with the opinion that the Jews were to blame for the crucifixion.

Their rampage was driven, not by faith, but by opinion.

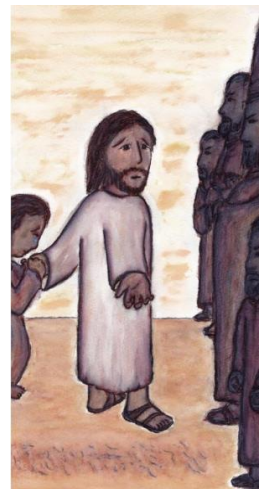
When Jesus taught in his home-town synagogue...

...his call to faith shook their opinions so badly that they flew into a rage, dragged him out of the synagogue and tried to throw him over a cliff.

Jesus' call to faith

He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Luke 4:17-21



At first the people were moved. But as Jesus looked into their faces, he could see anger rising up.

These folks were so full of opinions that there was no room for faith.

Jesus shook their opinions.

Opinion number one:

We've known young Jesus all his life. How could he be a prophet?

And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, "Is not this Joseph's son?"

And he said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, `Physician, heal yourself; what we have heard you did at Caper'na-um, do here also in your own country.'" And he said, "Truly, I say to you, no prophet is acceptable in his own country."

Opinion number two:

We Jews have the inside track with God.

"But in truth, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Eli'jah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when there came a great famine over all the land; and Eli'jah was sent to none of them but only to Zar'ephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow.

And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Eli'sha; and none of them was cleansed, but only Na'aman the Syrian."

Don't mess with our opinions!

When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with wrath. And they rose up and put him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw him down headlong. But passing through the midst of them he went away.

Luke 4

Our opinions are the enemy of our faith.



Withholding Mercy
Ramone Romero

They elbow their way into our hearts and push faith over the cliff.

When we come to hear Jesus, we need to leave our opinions at the door.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The poor in spirit have no opinions; they have faith.

They have ears to hear what God has to say.

If we want to hear Jesus, we need to leave behind....

...our doctrinal opinions.

...our theological opinions.

...our political opinions.

Only when our opinions are out of the way can our hearts hear the voice of the Master.



Crossroads
Ramone Romero

When we go out to proclaim Jesus, we need to leave our opinions in the garbage.

No wonder the world shakes its head when it looks at the church.

When the world looks at us...

...it hears us talk about “Christian values”, “Christian principles”, “Christian culture”....
all of *which are more opinion than faith.*

It rarely hears the voice of Jesus.

It rarely sees the love of Jesus.

It rarely encounters the truth of Jesus.

We need to leave our opinions in the garbage, and simply bear witness to Jesus,

By the way we live.

By the way we speak.

With our opinions out of the way our gospel has power.



Reaching Across

Ramone Romero

By that power we will continue the work which our Master began, until he returns to settle accounts.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Prayer- Holy Lord help us to leave our opinions behind as we proclaim you to this world. May our faith in our theology, our doctrines, and our political views not lead us to boil with rage so we are ready to push you over the cliff. Sweet Master, help us to continue to listen to your voice above the angry mob, the crowd seething with opinions. May the poor, the captive, the blind and the oppressed encounter your truth by the way we live, by the way we speak and by our simple faith in you, only you.

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Art: Ramon Romero [Weeping Jeremiah blog](#)

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WHO WAS SLAIN
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

