

Pre-Crucifixion Worldview of the Disciples [2]

Jesus as Authority

1. Jesus knows what is going to happen in the near future
 - a. He has “insider information” about reality (and the spiritual world behind it).
2. Jesus has power/authority over sickness, nature, and demons (given to him by the Father via the spirit)
3. Jesus is the Messiah, Son of God, Son of Man
 - a. He is the rightful Son of David who is destined to rule Israel and the world
 - b. at least from the time of the Caesarea-Philippi confession
4. Jesus is more than just “the Rabbi” but he is even superior to Moses
 - a. You have heard it was said _____ but **I say** unto you _____
5. Jesus is the one who has exclusive access to the Father (cf. Gospel of John)
 - a. Only begotten son (or “one and only son”)
 - b. Believe in me (that my Father sent me)
 - c. forgives sins (Matthew 9.2-8; Luke 7.47-50)
6. Jesus requires complete loyalty
 - a. even over conventional family ties -- hate father and mother
 - b. even over one’s own self -- deny self
 - i. to the point of death -- take up cross

Personal Relationship with God

1. Love God with everything (heart, soul, mind, and strength)
2. Trust in God not in five senses (faith)
 - a. if you have faith as a mustard seed...
 - b. Don’t worry about necessities of life...for your Father knows what you have need of.
3. Instruction on Prayer
 - a. Lord’s prayer
 - b. pray with persistence, in faith, with meaning (not vain repetition), and without hypocrisy (enter your closet and pray)
 - c. God hears and cares (counting sparrows & hair)
4. Be genuine in everything
 - a. God sees what is done in secret (Luke 16.14-15)
 - b. when giving alms, when fasting, when praying
5. God as caring Father
6. Emphasis is not on location but on humility, holiness, faith, and prayer
 - a. Throughout his ministry Jesus did not emphasize the Temple
 - b. He said the house was desolate (Luke 13.35)
 - c. He enacted the “cleansing of the Temple” just before he was arrested to demonstrate that the sort of commercialism (Romanization) that was going on was wrong.
 - d. Even more startling, Jesus predicts the complete destruction of the Temple at the beginning of the Olivet Discourse.

- e. Note also the saying to the woman at the well (John 4.20–24) and the comments made about God dwelling within the disciples after Jesus leaves them (John 14–16).

We are the True People of God

1. Holiness (live above this age)
 - a. Holiness is not just righteousness but also includes the idea of something (or someone) that is separated for God's use. For example the incense that burned in the tabernacle was holy, not necessarily because it was of superior quality, but because it could not be used in people's homes—it was for God and God alone.
 - b. The disciples are God's people who are to live consecrated lives focused on inner purity (especially to love God and others).
 - c. not holy in the sense that they cannot associate with sinners
2. wholeness among the disciples
 - a. love each other as Jesus loved
 - b. reconciling with the offender
 - i. confront alone
 - ii. confront with one or two others
 - iii. send him out of the community (until he repents)
 - c. forgiveness to the repentant offender
 - d. forgiveness to all (the disciple has no right to hold a grudge)
3. Love the neighbor as self
 - a. share/give to the needy
 - b. serve others
 - c. preach the message to them
4. Love the enemy
 - a. bless him, submit to him, pray for him, you know his end
5. remnant theology
 - a. throughout the prophets when judgment was prophesied a remnant would be spared who would then enjoy the restoration process
 - b. the disciples are twelve to represent that they are the beginnings (the foundation stones) of a new Israel
 - c. Unlike the Essenes who believed they were the pious remnant, the disciples of Jesus were active in spreading their message among their own people, calling them to repentance and to join the remnant
6. a new way to be Israel
 - a. this is the next stage of Jewish history, to listen to messiah and live his way
 - b. Rather than the interpretation of the law that the Pharisees advocated, Jesus gives a wholly new interpretation that at once reduces the law to its heart and at the same time adds new behaviors to it.
 - c. Believing that Jesus is the Messiah and following him are thoroughly Jewish ideas