

## Jesus was Not Afraid to Battle

By Brad Harrub

How does Satan win modern-day battles? One way is by successfully convincing Christians not to engage in battle—to instead focus on how we come across to others and how we “appear” to those in our culture.

He has convinced Christians and many preachers/elders that being nice is the only way we can demonstrate a Christian spirit.

Sure, we read about the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6)—and we may even talk about it at VBS—but we currently live in a culture where it is politically incorrect to actually suit up and go into battle.

Satan has convinced Christians to focus so much attention on niceness that we have totally lost sight of righteousness. A quick look at the New Testament reveals Jesus and His disciples were a lot more concerned about righteousness, rather than making and keeping friends.

Jesus was not concerned about being nice and making friends with the greedy moneychangers. Jesus was not concerned about being nice and making friends with the religious hypocrites. Jesus was concerned about doing the will of His Father.

We have been silenced into thinking we should never make someone mad or else we may not be able to convert them. Obviously, as Christians we should never be mean-spirited or antagonistic.

But if Jesus and His disciples couldn't convert everyone they interacted with, what makes you think you can?! There will always be people out there who have stiffened their necks against God. Don't allow those individuals to silence you!

Friends hear this loud and clear—Jesus had no problem making some people mad.

In fact, He made people so mad they ended up killing Him. Stop and really think about that: Jesus angered people so much they want to kill Him. Many of the apostles did the same and experienced horrendous deaths. But also notice neither Jesus nor His disciples were willing to compromise or sugar-coat the Truth. He knew there was a battle going on, and Jesus was not afraid to engage the enemy. He was not afraid to call people out.

Take a minute and look at some of the phrases Jesus used in Matthew 23.

- But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! (v 13)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! (v 14)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! (v 15)
- Woe to you, blind guides, (v 16)
- Fools and blind! (v 17)
- Fools and blind! (v 19)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! (v 23)
- Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! (v 24)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! ...inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence. (v 25)
- Blind Pharisee (v 26)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness (v 27)
- Even so you also outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. (v 28)
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! (v 29)
- Serpents, brood of vipers! (v 33)

Fast forward to our common era and social media. Imagine for just a moment if I called religious hypocrites or immoral pagans even a fraction the names Jesus used in Matthew 23. Social media would blow up as preachers and those seeking to take the moral high ground called me out as “unloving” and “hateful.”

I would be “tar and feathered” in the virtual world for not loving my neighbor—and I can assert this confidently, because it has happened to me in the past. And yet, Jesus used these names—and He didn't back off. He kept calling them names. He kept piling on the insults. He kept pointing out their wicked hearts.

Friends, Jesus had no problem calling people out. He did not walk on eggshells, always worrying about what people thought. Yes, Jesus was the sacrificial lamb that we all needed, but He was also the Lion of Judah. Jesus was more than nice.

We know according to Scripture that God is love (1 John 4:8). Sometimes love means rebuking someone practicing immorality. Sometimes love means reproving things that are displeasing to the Lord (2 Timothy 4:2). Jesus loved individuals enough to say the hard things that needed to be said.

Please stop allowing Satan to sit you down comfortably at the tables Jesus flipped. Do not be afraid to suit up and engage the enemy. Why would you need the whole armor of God if there was never going to be a battle? Jesus said: “If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you” (John 15:18-19).

Maybe instead of trying to always be nice and make the world love us we should ask ourselves why we covet the love of the world in the first place!

## Things you should know about!

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. If you want to contribute, mark it as “DRF” or give the money to Jason.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Matthew Wilson 7/21
- Anna Wilson 7/30
- Erica Gaynor 7/22
- Stephanie Bang 7/30
- Michelle Buckingham 7/25
- Cole Durst 7/30
- Jason Shaffer 7/30

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## Happy Anniversary

Judah & Michelle Gasper 7/26

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Ark Encounter - Tentative date is July 23rd.

If you are interested in going, please let John know if this day works.

Group rates are available if we have enough people go.

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This month's potluck will be today!

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Men's Meeting this Saturday, July 19th @ 9am

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### Serving today and next Sunday:

Sunday AM Rotation	July 10, 2022	July 17, 2022
Announcements	Jerry Thompson	Tom Muter
Song Leading	Duane Kemp	Owen Whittington
Opening Prayer/Greeter/Usher	Jason Bang (L)	Tim Bang
Lord's Supper Comments	Tom Muter	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Owen Whittington	Chris McGiffin
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin
Closing Prayer/Usher	Chris McGiffin (R)	Jerry Thompson

**Bible Verse of the Week**

“Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” 1 John 3:24

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

*Jesus was chastened for OUR wellbeing.*

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

**Offering Meditation**

*God gave us His Son, We could NEVER really repay. However, We can help others in the name of the Lord.*

“The wicked borrow and do not repay, but the righteous give generously...” Psalms 37:21

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**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - asked for prayers for his Parkinson's
- \*Laura McGiffin's - for the incision on her leg to heal properly
- \*Marjorie Seiber - recovering from eye surgeries
- \*Tom Cruze (Phyllis Caldwell's nephew) - having heart issues, will be seeing the dr
- \*Orvelle & Sharon Thompson - both having knee/hip joint aches/pains

- \*Seth Miller (Chris & Lisa Miller's son) - recovering from wrist surgery
- \*Chris & Lisa Miller's great nephew - recovering from near drowning

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

Please call John or email him at [jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com](mailto:jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you may have for the congregation.

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

**Sunday, July 3**

Bible Classes  
AM Attendance  
PM Attendance

**Wednesday, July 6**

Bible Classes  
Contribution \$

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



## July 10, 2022

**Worship Times:**

- Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am
- Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am
- Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm
- Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

Minister, John McGiffin

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd  
Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!  
If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.