



FEARS, TEARS & JEERS:

Staying positive
in a negative world, Lesson 11




GOOD MORNING!


- As we begin our class, I'd like to share some feedback:
- *"I wanted you to know that God is truly using you during Sunday School.. What you are teaching is making a lot of us open our eyes, let alone our hearts, to make some changes. May God continue using you to bless others."*
- *"My mother recently commented, 'you're different! You're more positive!'"*
- Praise the Lord! Let's open in prayer.



The past two weeks...

- We've covered "jeers." By way of review:
- **Jeer** = to speak in mockery or derision; to scoff or laugh with contempt; to pour scorn on.
- **Mock** = to treat with ridicule, disdain, open contempt or scorn; to deride; to imitate in derision or sport; to make fun of.


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- As we've studied the word "mock" in the New Testament, one of the lessons we've learned is that if you want to excel in interpersonal relations and person-to-person communication, jeers and sneers (sarcasm and cynicism) are not particularly constructive. *There are wiser ways to make your point.*

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- We've also studied how Jesus was mocked. He was perhaps the single most mocked person who has ever lived on Earth...and he did NO sin and excelled in doing wonderful things.
 - The servant is not above his master. If Jesus was mocked, and we are His ambassadors, His disciples, then how should we expect to get a free pass?




Let's continue this morning...

- ...and examine the use of the word “mock” in the *Old* Testament.




GENESIS 19:14, *“And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that **mocked** unto his sons in law.”*

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- Sometimes you will be mocked, even by close relatives and friends, when God gives you wisdom, discernment, warning, and/or revelation about impending danger.
 - Can you think of examples in your own life, or in life today?




What about accusations that you're square when you warn people about the consequences of sin?


- Premarital sex?
- Smoking?
- Drinking and driving?
- Drugs?
- Gambling?
- Embezzlement?





GENESIS 21:8-9, *“And the child grew, and was weaned: and Abraham made a great feast the same day that Isaac was weaned. And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, (Ishmael) which she had born unto Abraham, **mocking.**”*


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- Family and sibling rivalries can cause mocking.
 - Can you think of examples in your own life, or in life today?


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- A friend of mine raised 11 kids, and he said the family “rule” was that if there was fighting and feuding among siblings, the guilty parties would have to read 1 Corinthians 15 and explain how their behavior matched with Godly love.

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- NUMBERS 22:22-34, “And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.
 - ²²And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.
 - ²³And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way.
 - ²⁴But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side.
 - ²⁵And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again.


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- ²⁶And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.
 - ²⁷And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.
 - ²⁸And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times?
 - ²⁹And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast **mocked** me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.


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- 30 And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? and he said, Nay.
 - 31 Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.
 - 32 And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me:
 - 33 And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive.
 - 34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

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- Sometimes when you rebuke people for their foolish behavior, they will mock you.
 - Can you think of examples from your life or life today?




JUDGES 16:15, *“And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart is not with me? thou hast **mocked** me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength lieth.”*

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- Sometimes mocking someone, as Samson did here with Delilah, can backfire. Playing around, taunting, teasing, and “having some fun” can lead to being ensnared, manipulated and defeated.
 - Can you think of examples in your life or in life today?




NEHEMIAH 4:1, *“But it came to pass, that when Sanballat heard that we builded the wall, he was wroth, and took great indignation, and **mocked** the Jews.”*

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- Sometimes you will be mocked by bullies when you are starting something “new” that will be good and bear Godly fruit.
 - Can you think of any examples in your life or in life today?





PROVERBS 14:9, “*Fools make a **mock** at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.*”

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- You cannot play with fire without being burned!
 - Can you think of examples in your life or in life today?





PROVERBS 17:5, “Whoso **mocketh** the poor reproacheth
his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not
be unpunished.”

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- It's so easy to get haughty, but pride precedeth a fall.
 - Can you think of examples in your life or in life today?




PROVERBS 20:1, “*Wine is a **mock**er, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*”

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- Drunkenness can make someone a mocker.
 - Can you think of examples in your life or in life today?




PROVERBS 30:17, “*The eye that **mocketh** at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.*”


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- The know-it-all child, teen or grown adult who mocks his parents is walking on treacherous ground.
 - Can you think of examples in your life or in life today?




You can't control what others do...

- But, you do have control over YOUR motives, desires, thoughts, words and actions.
- Don't enter the Jeer Zone. In the final analysis, it's not worth it!
- Don't contribute to the sarcasm and cynicism in our culture. Rise above it and stay positive.
- Don't lower yourself when you are mocked, by responding in-kind. Rise above it and stay positive.

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- “Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.” Psalm 34:13
 - “Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Psalm 141:3
 - “The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.” Proverbs 10:32
 - “He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.” Proverbs 13:3

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- “In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.” Proverbs 14:3
 - “A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.” Proverbs 15:4
 - “Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.” Proverbs 21:23

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- “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.” James 1:26
 - “And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.” James 3:6
 - “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile.” 1 Peter 3:10



Next week:

- The finale to this series! Thanks for taking the journey through Fears, Tears and Jeers with us!
- Let's close in prayer.