

FEARS, TEARS & JEERS:
Staying positive
in a negative world, Lesson 9


GOOD MORNING!

Thus far in this series we've covered:

- The FEAR of eternal insecurity...
 - The FEAR of death...
 - The FEAR of failure...
- The FEAR of choosing...
- The FEAR of strongholds...
- The FEAR of problems...
 - The FEAR of success...
- And last week we covered TEARS.

This morning...

- And the next two weeks as we wrap up this series, we'll dive into *JEERS*.



First, some definitions:

- **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.

- **Persecute** = to cause to suffer, especially for religious or political reasons; to vex, harass

Have you ever been jeered?

- Not only jeered for being you, or for a view, or for something you do, but because of Who you believe and trust in?
- How does it feel?
- How do you react?




Are jeers in the Bible?

- Yes. The word “jeer” doesn’t appear in Scripture, but “mock” appears 49x and “persecute” appears 76x.
- This morning we’re going to focus on the word “mock” in the New Testament.

*“Then Herod, when he saw that he was **mocked** of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.”*
Matthew 2:16

When people feel mocked...

- Whether for good or for evil, whether rightly or wrongly, mocking someone can bruise the ego and trigger extreme emotional, knee-jerk reactions.



*“And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to **mock**, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.” Matthew 20:19*

*“And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and **mocked** him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!” Matthew 27:29*

*“And after that they had **mocked** him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.” Matthew 27:31*

“Likewise also the chief priests **mocking** him, with the scribes and elders, said...” Matthew 27:41

*“And they shall **mock** him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.”* Mark 10:34

*“And when they had **mocked** him, they took off the purple from him, and put his own clothes on him, and led him out to crucify him.”* Mark 15:20

*“Likewise also the chief priests **mocking** said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.” Mark 15:31*


*“For he shall be delivered unto the Gentiles, and shall be **mocked**, and spitefully entreated, and spitted on...” Luke 18:32*

*“And the men that held Jesus **mocked** him, and smote him.” Luke 22:63*

*“And Herod with his men of war set him at nought, and **mocked** him, and arrayed him in a gorgeous robe, and sent him again to Pilate.” Luke 23:11*

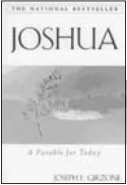
*“And the soldiers also **mocked** him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar...” Luke 23:36*

• Jesus could have called on legions of angels to whallop his mockers. Here He was, the ONLY “perfect” person in the history of the world, the sinless one, who did no wrong and did LOTS of good, and is the one being brutally mocked.



• How did He respond? How does He instruct US to respond?

- It's easy for us to mock the chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees...they "should" have known...but humanly speaking, how would we treat someone who claimed to be the Messiah?



- No matter how many good works he did, would we mock him today? Would our religious leaders embrace him today?

- There are many false prophets and antichrists, so some degree of skepticism is "healthy."
- Jones and Koresh led cults. At its best, Christianity is not a cult...but there are cults that have a form of Christianity, led by manipulative, controlling, unreasonable leaders. We need to be VERY WISE FRUIT INSPECTORS.

- On the other side of the coin, Jesus demonstrated over...and over...and over that He was the real Messiah.
- His FRUIT was proclaiming good news, casting out demons, and healing the sick. His reward was to be mocked... beaten...and crucified.

Another form of mocking...



- Comes when people don't understand what's going on. They misinterpret and mock what they see and hear. For example, on the Day of Pentecost in Acts...

*"Others **mocking** said, These men are full of new wine." Acts 2:13*

The supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit was misinterpreted by mockers as drunkenness.

*"And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some **mocked**: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter." Acts 17:32*

The supernatural act of God was misinterpreted as a fable. That's the kind of home I grew up in...*having a form of Godliness but denying the power thereof.*

Another form of mocking...

- Can be caused by our ignorance, folly, naivete... and subsequent failure.

- *“Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him...”* Luke 14:29
- If we don’t “count the cost,” we can fail and be mocked for our failure. Sometimes God gets a (temporary) bad rap because of our failure. But remember:
- **FAILURE + HUMILITY + TIME + GOD’S HAND = SUCCESS.**

Many people mock God...

- But in the final analysis, He is not human. People really don’t comprehend Who they are mocking.
- God is the omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent Creator of the Universe. Mocking Him is dumb and senseless!



*"Be not deceived; God is not **mocked**: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Gal 6:7*

If you sow to the flesh, what will you reap?

If you sow to the Spirit, what will you reap?

**We reap what we sow, later than we sowed,
more than we sowed.**

**Christians have been
mocked the past 2,000 years...**

- Some verbally...
- Some physically...
- Some both ways...

*"And others had trial of cruel **mockings** and scourgings,
yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment..."*
Hebrews 11:36

And it's going to get worse before it gets better.

- Fasten your seat belts, folks. We live in sobering days, and we have sobering days up ahead...

"How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts." Jude 1:18

- We live in a very cynical, sarcastic, disdainful, critical, opinionated, secular, rebellious, mocking culture. Stand for Christ and you will be mocked. Mark it down.
- This mocking culture permeates homes, schools, workplaces, institutions, media, recreation, government, politics...and our churches.

• The most painful mockings I have received have not come from the world...but from fellow believers!

• Much of the root cause of the mockery is jealousy and conviction. I don't compete with others, but they compete with me.

But that doesn't mean we get "negative!"

• As the world gets darker, we will shine brighter. There is a polarization taking place around the world between Light and Darkness. The JOY of the Lord is still our strength! GLOW, BABY, GLOW! Don't have fears and tears when you're hit with jeers. Don't react vehemently to mockings... they're really jealous of the peace and the hope that lies within you!

• As Jesus said when he was criticized and mocked no matter what he said or didn't say, no matter what he did or didn't say, **"Wisdom is justified of her children."** If you are walking with and in the Lord, it'll all come out in the wash and in the end you will be vindicated.

• Be careful that you don't become a mocker! It's unproductive for the Kingdom. Let's pray.
