

“What Does That Mean?”

One of the most confusing things Jesus said was while He was carrying the cross. He spoke to the women who were weeping over Him. The statement was, “*For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?*” Luke 23:31

The statement was an elaboration on the activity of the Romans. Jesus told the women they should weep for themselves because of what was coming. The destruction of Jerusalem is what He referred to (vs. 29-30).

I believe Jesus is referring to the process of starting a fire. It is very difficult to get green wood to burn. Jesus was like the green tree. The Romans hated the Jews and yet they were killing Jesus for them. Pilate said Jesus was innocent but he washed his hands of the verdict. He knew the priests had delivered Jesus out of envy but still granted their wishes. He let a murderer named Barabbas go free while he allowed Jesus to be executed. Never was a man more innocent, accusers more corrupt, and executioners more inconsistent. It took a great deal of effort to get this green tree to burn.

On the other hand, the Jewish nation was a constant source of antagonism to the Romans. They were the dry tree. They would ignite the wrath of the Romans very easily.

If the Romans were so abusive to someone who caused them no trouble, how harsh would they be to someone who consistently irritated them. They could be very cruel to their enemies, and the Jews were their enemies. Within that generation these weeping woman would understand Jesus’ words.

Ron Roberts

Mooreville church of Christ

720 N. Indianapolis Road

Mooreville, IN 46158

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Assemblies

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship

5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

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**Fear God and
Keep His
Commandments**

We appreciate all of our visitors who join us for worship services and Bible classes. If you are local to the area and are not a member of the church of Christ we would love to have a Bible study with you in your home or ours. We will show you from the Bible why we do what we do and believe what we believe. There is nothing more important in life than pleasing God. His word has been provided to us by the Holy Spirit so we can know what we should do. It is through faithful obedience that we obtain God’s grace and a home in heaven. If you have any questions we would love to assist you in finding God’s answers. Please let any one of the men know about your desires, and we will make arrangements with you at your convenience. Thank you for joining us. We pray that our service has been edifying to you. Your presence has encouraged us.

“Luke, I Am Your Father!”

The above quotation comes from the second Star Wars movie. The ultimate villain, Darth Vader, says it to the hero, Luke Skywalker. Luke does not want to believe it because he recognizes there are similar traits between fathers and sons. He in no way wants to bear any resemblance to the evil Darth Vader.

We have several old sayings that refer to the similarities between parents and children. “*Like father, like son*” is one of them. “*The apple does not fall far from the tree*” is another. Most children would find it a compliment to be compared to their daddy. Luke had a totally different reaction. He wanted to be nothing like his father. Often we see sons who try to claim a resemblance to their father that they do not have. *Because Dad was respected they think they should be without earning it. Because Dad was a success they think they will be without working. Because Dad’s marriage was good they think theirs will be without realizing the amount of effort Dad and Mom invested to make it work.*

The idea of resembling the father is not only found in old sayings and old movies. Jesus taught the same truth. Matt. 5:48 says, “*Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*”

The discussion of the family resemblance is the focus of the conversation between Jesus and the Jews in John 8. Our Lord continues to make references to His Father, but the Jews do not seem to understand who He is talking about. The section of the discussion we want to focus on does not deal with Jesus’ Father, but the true father of these Jews. Our text is John 8:39-44.

The Jews were extremely proud of being descendants of Abraham. Unfortunately the only thing they had in common with him was blood. Jesus taught that they should resemble their father in behavior and not in physical features. He said in verse 39, “*If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham.*”

Not only did they fail to do the right things Abraham did, but they also sought to do the evil things that he would not have done. Jesus goes on to say in verse 40, “*But not ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard from God: this did not Abraham.*”

We are identified as our father’s children when we behave like him. Jesus brought the truth. The message came from God. Abraham would have appreciated Jesus and followed Him if he was in the same generation as the Jews that sought to kill Christ. The behavior of the Jewish people revealed that Abraham was not their true father.

“*Ye do the deeds of your father,*” Jesus told them in verse 41. They seemed to understand the accusation and argued back, “*We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.*” Their deeds were not consistent with Abraham. Then Jesus points out that their values were not the same as God’s.

“*If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me.*” This statement from verse 42 shows God’s values. He loved Jesus. If the Jews were God’s children they should see the resemblance between the Father and the Son and accept the Lord and His teachings also.

They could not understand Jesus because they were not seeking God and His truth (vs. 43). When people have their minds made up the truth will allude them. They will only use the Bible to justify their current behavior. If the Bible contradicts their deeds they will dismiss the correction as a misunderstanding of the message.

The text comes to a close with Jesus identifying the true father the Jews were imitating. “*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*”

The Jewish people rejected Jesus’ truth and murdered Him. Like father, like son.

Ron Roberts