



April 12, 2009

Wimpy Jesus Gotta Go!

(Why turning the other cheek is way overrated)

(SERIES: Fighting Back!!: 01 of 07)

by Dr. David Foster

"... If someone strikes **you** on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if someone wants to sue **you** and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. If someone forces **you** to go one mile, go with him two miles. Give to the one who asks **you**..." (Matthew 5:38-42 NIV)

Introducing **Renegade** Jesus

RJ broke the rules.

"Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat!" Jesus replied, "And why do you **break the command of God for the sake of your tradition?**" (Matthew 15:2-3 NIV)

RJ had the audacity to speak truth to power.

"Jesus answered, 'It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4 (NIV))

"You're hopeless, you religion scholars and Pharisees! Frauds! You're like manicured grave plots, grass clipped and the flowers bright, but six feet down it's all rotting bones and worm-eaten flesh. People look at you and think you're saints, but **beneath the skin you're total frauds.**" (Matthew 23:27-28 The Msg)

RJ dared to claim divinity.

"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

"Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? **Anyone who has seen me has seen**

the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.'" (John 14:8-10 NIV)

RJ defied death.

"When he had received the drink, Jesus said, 'It is finished.' With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." (John 19:30 NIV)

Is RJ worth **proselytizing?**

Because of who He is.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16 NIV)

Because of what He did.

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." (1 John 4:9-11 NIV)

Because of what He is doing.

"Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." (Romans 8 NIV)

Because of what is ahead.

"...he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For **he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.** The last enemy to be destroyed is death." (1 Corinthians 15:24-26 NIV)