

## The Firmness Of Jesus

- I. Noah Webster's 1828 dictionary defines "firmness" as "someone or something that is fixed; steady; constant; stable; unshaken; not easily moved; or steadfast."
  - **Mark 4:16-17** - "*And in a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; and they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.*"
  - **1 Corinthians 15:58** - "*So then, my dear brothers, stand firm and steady. Keep busy always in your work for the Lord, since you know that nothing you do in the Lord's service is ever useless.*" TEV
  - **1 Corinthians 16:13** - "*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.*"
  - **Ephesians 6:11** - "*Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*"
  - **Philippians 1:27-28** - "*Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you.*"
- A. In light of this scriptures, I want to look at the "firmness of Jesus."
  1. **When you think of Jesus you usually think of His gentleness and graciousness, in dwelling upon these we have a tendency to overlook other traits that are just as praiseworthy.**
    - a. Gentleness of nature is not a virtue unless it is accompanied by a tenacity of will.
    - b. Sweetness of disposition is not enough to make a man useful and noble.**
      - 1) Strength must always accompany a sweet disposition.
      - 2) **Underneath soft moods must lie a resoluteness that is as hard as steel.**
  2. The inability of men to stand firm in the midst of social and spiritual forces is one of the outstanding tragedies of history.
    - a. All men are more or less molded by the society of which they form a part.**
    - b. Impressionability is not a trait peculiar to childhood, but is carried with you through every stage of life.

1) **1 Corinthians 15:33** - *“Do not be fooled. Bad companions ruin good character.” “Do not be deceived. Good character is marred by evil company.”*

2) **Proverbs 13:20** - *“Keep company with the wise and you will become wise. If you make friends with stupid people, you will be ruined.”*

**c. Businessmen are as susceptible as college students to peer pressure.**

Last week, Alan Greenspan came up with a new term, *“infectious greed.”* He said, *“An infectious greed has gripped much of our business community. Incentives created by poorly designed stock options have overcome the good judgment of too many corporate managers. It is not that humans have become any more greedy than in generations past. It is just the avenues to express that greed have grown so enormously.”*

**d. Humanity goes with the crowd in droves and no bondage is too absurd or galling to be submitted to.**

1) The majority of people are not strong enough to be themselves.

2) **They become echoes of their neighbors and walk paths marked out by others.**

B. In Jesus we are in the presence of a man whom nobody pressured or dominated.

**1. Immersed in an ocean of mighty forces which beat upon Him furiously through every hour of His life, He resisted them all successfully by His indomitable will.**

2. His countrymen had formed definite ideas of what the Messiah would sound and look like.

**a. He was to be a wonder worker with manifestations of power.**

b. But He was also to be a conqueror by trampling the opposing forces of Rome and making Jerusalem the center of the world.

**c. This was the dream, this was the expectation of both the best of men and the worst of men.**

3. It is a dangerous thing to baffle and go against popular expectations.

**a. Everywhere He went, He heard the people clamoring for a king.**

b. The nation was ripe for revolution. A word from Him would, like a spark, would have kindled and started this revolution.

**4. To fall in with their ideals was a great temptation.**

- a. But He chose the road that led to Golgotha and not the one that would have led to Rome.
- b. By doing so He renounced the ideals of His countrymen and disappointed their dearest expectations.**
- c. The nation then turned on Him with a murderous force, but He did not budge, He stood firm.

**5. Not only did He go against their ideas of what the Messiah should be like, He also went against their ideas of what a prophet of God should be like.**

- a. He loved the nation of Israel and He loved the Israelites, but He could not and would not allowed them to dictate to Him what a man of God should be like.
  - 1) The religious teachers taught doctrines of the Sabbath which He could not accept.**
  - 2) They presented forms of worship which He could not submit to.
  - 3) They laid down lines of separation which it was impossible for Him to observe.**
- b. There were many reasons why He should have conformed to the ideas and customs of the church, but He firmly resisted all the voices which urged Him toward conformity.
  - 1) He stood out alone in defiance of what the best men were doing and saying.**
  - 2) His nonconformity seemed to the majority to be blasphemous.
  - 3) For a godly man to be classed among blasphemers is one of the bitterest experiences which the heart can know.**
  - 4) But Jesus paid the price and continued firm.

**C. Jesus was firm with influential and powerful people.**

- 1. The influential and powerful people of Jesus day, recognized in Him a man of force, and were wanting to manipulate and make use of Him.
- 2. No man with a noble cause to promote will lightly antagonize the most influential and powerful men of his day.**

- a. Jesus is a man of strength and will not compromise His principles in order to gain some temporary success.
- b. He will never jeopardize the victory of His cause by playing into the hands of men whose faces are toward a different goal.**

D. Jesus was firm with His friends.

- 1. There are men who are too strong to be manipulated by their foes, but are very susceptible to influence of their friends.**
2. Jesus had many friends, but He never gave up His principles to please them.
  - a. His disciples had their prejudices and superstitions, but He never surrendered to them.**
  - b. He knew of their bigotry and narrowness but never humored them.  
Mark 8:32-33 - Luke 9:52-56
  - c. To defy the threats of powerful enemies is hard, but to turn a deaf ear to the dissuasions of loving friends is harder still.**

E. Jesus was firm with His family.

- 1. His siblings did not understand Him.**
  - a. From their standpoint He often did the injudicious thing and refused to do the thing which would have forward His cause and reputation.
  - b. They were always ready with advice He could not take - John 7:3-8.**
2. This test of willpower reached its climax when He stood firm against His own mother.  
Luke 2:48-50 - Luke 8:19-21
  - a. His ties to His mother were not so deep as His ties with the Fathers will.**
  - b. When His mothers wish conflicted with the Fathers will, the wish of the woman was put aside to make room for the will of God.

**Men are to resist exterior forces and form their life from within. They are not to be swayed by current opinion, but by the Spirit of the Eternal in their heart. They are not to listen to the voices of time, but to live and work for eternity.**