

Jesus: Was it the Apple Pie that Killed Him?

Feb. 17, 2008 – by Gary McHale

Recently a group addressing the issues in Caledonia pointed out two types of Christians that can be found in the midst of the turmoil and violence. One is the Christian Outside Interloping instigator who is found in the midst of the turmoil while the other is the hymn singing Christian found at home baking an Apple Pie. Not hard to see who is the good Christian and who is the bad Christian based on our modern viewpoint.

The problem is that Christianity isn't a democracy where you get to vote on the various aspects of God. Nor is it like going to buy a car where you test drive various models and get to pick and choose the features you like. Christianity's claims are based on certain historical facts including the death of Jesus Christ.

The question in this editorial is where was Jesus during the turmoil of his day? At home baking Apple Pies, or found in the midst, in fact the center, of the turmoil?

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount it doesn't say, "Blessed are the Apple Pie makers" but it does say the following:

**Bless are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.
(Matt 5:11)**

The first question that should be asked is why would anyone insult you or persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you if you are at home baking Apple Pies? And second, exactly which prophets were persecuted for baking Apple Pies?

Maybe Jesus is trying to tell people not to be bad cooks? Maybe if you don't knead the dough correctly or use the wrong type of apples then people are going to insult you, persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you?

Jesus was arrested, accused of illegal behavior, beaten and presented to the crowd to decide what to do with him. They shouted 'crucify him, crucify him'. What caused such anger, such hatred and such violence against Jesus? How did Jesus find himself in the midst of this turmoil, this hatred and this violence?

It was a path he chose. It wasn't thrust upon him or something that occurred out of the blue but something he chose to do because Truth and Justice were more important than self-preservation.

Jesus had entered Jerusalem just a few days before his death to the cheers of a crowd of people, something which the leadership of the day was unhappy with. Jesus was not from Jerusalem and as such he was an outsider, an interloper who was inciting the crowd and breaking the good order and peace of the city.

Maybe the leadership remembered other trips this interloping Jesus made to Jerusalem and other towns. How he made a whip, not an Apple Pie, and whipped the money changers and business people out of the temple. He was creating economic harm and the local businesses made a fortune from the travelers to the temples. Jesus wasn't going along with the status quo and wasn't part of the good-old-boys club.

Not only did Jesus make a whip to chase people out of the temple but he publicly called the religious leaders names like 'brood of vipers', 'blind guides', 'hypocrites', whitewashed tombs', etc. Certainly this is not the best way to make friends and influence people. Just how many churches today would accept this Jesus who whips people out of the churches, and openly calls the religious leaders these types of names?

Modern Christianity wants Jesus at home baking an Apple Pie and not the Jesus of the Bible.

Jesus wasn't killed because he healed the sick, nor because he caused the blind to see, nor because he fed the multitudes, but because he spoke the truth and exposed sin.

And Jesus wasn't the first, nor the last to die because of this direct approach at presenting the truth and exposing sin. John the Baptist had his head cut off because he refused to stop publicly crying out that the King was living in adultery. John was another outsider, interloper, who traveled around inciting the people against the king because he exposed the sinful life style that the king had.

The Apostle Paul traveled throughout Asia Minor creating economic harm to businesses and stirring up the crowds with his preaching of the truth. In fact business owners gather together to stop this outside interloper from inciting the crowds and Paul was imprisoned for disturbing the peace. Paul states the following:

I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned... I have been constantly on the move... in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea, and in danger from false brothers. (2Cor 11:23)

What Jesus failed to understand is that Modern Christianity doesn't allow for outside interloping instigators to get involved. What Jesus, John the Baptist and the Apostle Paul needed to do to be Real Christians is stay home and bake Apple Pies, attend church and mind their own business.

Where are the Christians and Churches when Injustice occurs?

What about more modern day Christianity? Fifty years ago Canada faced what people now know was a serious abuse towards Native people through Residential Schools. Where were the Christians and church leaders for the sixty years when this abuse was occurring? It appears to me they were either at home baking Apple Pies or involved in running these church based Residential Schools. One thing is sure... they were NOT out in the street fighting against the injustice being committed against Native people.

Jump back a few more years and you find Germany proclaiming itself Christian and Hitler claiming to be head of the church while killing millions of people in death camps. Where were the Christians and church leaders when they saw their neighbours being taken away... they were at home baking Apple Pies.

In the USA the largest denomination is the Southern Baptists. Where were all these Christians during the years ruled by the KKK, a so-called Christian group, and the endless victimization of Black people? What did the Christian leadership and the average Christian do or say when they saw the injustice against Black people? They were too busy at home baking Apple Pies to be in the midst of this very important Human Rights issue.

Jump back to the early 1800s in England when William Wilberforce, a Christian, confronted the injustice of Black Slavery as a legal trade in the British Empire. It took dozens of years by a few Christians through rallies, petitions and boycotts to get Slavery outlawed. England claimed to be a Christian Nation with people being either Catholic or Protestant, so where were the millions of so-called Christians standing up against this injustice? The answer is quite simple... they were at home baking Apple Pies.

Where are the Churches in Caledonia and Canada?

Modern Christianity rejects the Jesus of the Bible. It rejects any idea that Christians will have conflicts as they live out their lives. Most churches today are nothing more than Country Clubs where people go to benefit from whatever program the church offers for their families. Christianity and church are no longer a devotion or commitment to God, but a sharing of God's blessing to us. Church is not God centered but man centered. It is not how can God use us to address the injustices of our world, but how God uses the church to bring us peace and comfort. It is not counting the cost to help our neighbour, but what can I get out of the system.

Millions of Outside Interloping Christians as Missionaries?

Every Church has some sort of missionary budget. Millions of Christians for hundreds of years were sent as outsiders, as interlopers, throughout the world both to help the helpless and to confront the injustices of mankind. Truly a noble cause but many Apple Pie Christians stay at home and give a few bucks to send others out as interlopers.

But what about the injustice in our own backyard? Churches send millions to every corner of the world in some of the most dangerous areas of the world, but will do little to help those just down the road. Missionaries around the world have been beaten, imprisoned and killed because some see them as outside agitators.

The Church at the Crossroads?

For many Canadians the church, and thus Christianity, is irrelevant. A Christianity that is stuck within the four walls of the church or found at home baking Apple Pies does not help the helpless.

The Country Club Christianity that is practiced by most churches in Canada doesn't change the injustices of today nor hold people, businesses or governments accountable for their abuses. At one time Christians fought against child labour, Black Slavery, the binding of women's feet in China, etc. etc. etc.

Now Christianity stands for whatever makes you feel good.

To the Natives who lived through the experience of Residential Schools this brand of Christianity is irrelevant. To the Blacks in the Southern United States the fact that Christians picked up their Bibles and went to church on Sunday did little to stop the injustice against them.

The Bible states, "everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted". (1Tim 3:12) It doesn't say some may be persecuted but 'EVERYONE' 'WILL' be persecuted. This is why the Bible states, "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood." (Heb 12:4)

When faced with the reality of mankind's injustices against their fellow man, each Christian must make a decision... do I get involved or stay at home and bake an Apple Pie? One path leads to peace, comfort, and will win you the praise of others. The other path leads to persecution because mankind doesn't want injustice exposed.

Each Christian must ask what Cain asked of God, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The way of the world, the wisdom of mankind, is for everyone to get along and don't get involved in anything... in fact, stay home and make an Apple Pie. This brings peace and allows you to be happy in your own little world.

Jesus died for us and not for himself?

Jesus didn't die to help himself but he suffered and died for us. He came to live along side us and not apart from us within the 4 walls of some synagogue. Jesus walked among the people, the sinners and those who needed help. Jesus was not only found directly in the middle of conflict, he created it by his actions and words. Although he devoted himself to prayer, he got off his knees and devoted himself to the lives of others. He didn't sit back waiting for God to provide the answer but prayed that God used him to be the answer.

"Take up your cross daily", Jesus tells Christians. Suffering for others and putting other's lives before your own is what Christianity is all about.

Turn the Other Cheek?

As a Christian one doesn't know whether he will respond with anger, with hatred or with violence when 'turn the other cheek' becomes more than just a phrase. As a Christian you are well aware that many times you fail to follow God and fail to live the standards that Christ set.

On Dec. 1, 2007 God tested me in a way that I was unsure whether I would respond with the 'turn the other cheek' attitude. I say God tested me because as a Christian God and God alone is in control.

After being attacked and punched in the head the first time how would I respond when Clyde Powless approached me. Would I act out of fear, out of anger or out of hatred or without self-control? While I walked away from the second attack on me would I make some racial slurs, make some derogatory statements out of anger, denounce Mr. Powless in some way or again act out of self-control? As I walked away, with Timmer cheering because I was bleeding and his endless foolish questions as he rejoiced, would I respond to him in anger or hate?

This is the test. When people insult you, speak evil and outright assault you then where is your Christianity? ([see video](#))

I have seen Christians not speak to each other for dozens of years because of some minor offense or arguments in churches over the most petty issues. Imagine having not only to deal with people assaulting you but deciding that for the sake of others your life, your happiness, your comfort and your safety is nothing compared to the sacrifice needed to expose injustice for the sake of those who are helpless. Jesus died for you and me so what are you willing to do for your neighbour?

It is very easy to sit at home baking an Apple Pie while people are victimized by the injustices of the world. It is quite another to walk as Jesus walked and to be tested by God.