

JESUS WAS A THREATENING MORAL BULLY

Jesus said that it was worse to ignore his message that the reign of God was at hand than to ignore a message to repent (Luke 10). He prescribed insults and curses for those who did not accept the coming of the kingdom. He never picked like that on people who would not repent. He commanded that his disciples must wipe of the dust off their sandals, the dust of the sceptical town. That was a major insult and implies that the townspeople are so hated that the missionaries cannot bear to have their dust on their sandals. Pure and utter bigotry. It was more important to believe something than to regret and make amends for hurting others!

Perhaps repentance and faith go together and saying the kingdom is near implies that repentance must be done soon? But repentance and a specific KIND of faith do not go together. What would thinking the kingdom is around the corner have to do with repenting? You can repent without it or any religious dogma. The extreme urgency of the message implies that the door to Heaven was soon to be closed and soon as in a matter of days. There would be no point in God keeping the world anymore in that case and it would be brutally devastated by divine power and some would be safe in the kingdom. Seemingly, Jesus thought the world was about to end. It didn't so he was just another maniacal fake prophet.

For a religious teacher to threaten anybody because they would not repent fast enough even though there was no immediate hurry would be counter-productive. Jesus seems to have realised that for he stopped the ranting soon after emerging on the early pages of the gospels foaming at the mouth. Jesus knew he had to be nice to sinners to change them. And he partied with them. It is still true that his initial warning about the kingdom coming near implied that immediate repentance was being called for.

The episode may suggest that time was running out for sinners. Christians say that Jesus died to save the people who wanted to be saved. If so, maybe he meant that nobody sinful could change after his death so everybody then would be barred from Heaven. The time to repent was at his death or before it. This would make impostors of Paul and declare Christianity since his death to be apostate and satanic for it still preaches repentance and tells us we can go to Heaven.

