

# Noodles

By Kim Josephson

**W**here in the world did the Church ever get the idea that she would be understood or appreciated or even tolerated by the world? Jesus said plainly in John 15:19-20;

*If you were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.*

*Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.*

Have we stopped preaching about the cross for so long that we have forgotten what they did to Jesus. Let's start at the beginning - John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." There's not a place in all the world that would have been good enough for the Son of God to be born. But instead of a palace, they laid Him in a manger - a stall for animals. Because of an angelic messenger Joseph and Mary fled to Egypt to save Jesus from being put to death as a baby! You do recall that Joseph nearly deserted Mary when he found that she was pregnant while they were still engaged? What do you think the neighbors thought of that? Jesus, an accident - the illegitimate son of Joseph and Mary? Get real! Even today, "enlightened" theologians dismiss the virgin birth thereby making a mockery of the scriptures and a shame of the greatest moment in the history of the world! Any

preacher who dares to question the virgin birth ought to be tarred and feathered - no, horse whipped then tarred and feathered! "Now brother Kim we have to be tolerant." Tolerant of what - some baggy-eyed sack of ignorance who comes to steal your faith. No Way! Not Now! Not Ever! No Matter What! But back to the story. How did they treat Jesus?

When He finally began His public ministry they hated Him. They hated His authority. They hated His audacity. Time and time again after a healing or some utterance or some action of Jesus you read that they would get together and Plot to Kill Him! He would have to escape. Can you imagine? He opened up blind eyes, unstopped deaf ears, made the lame to walk again and shoved His prophetic finger in the face of those hypocrites around Him and all they could think about was trying to get rid of this Jesus.

It really shouldn't seem so outrageous. In fact, it's the very same today. Things haven't changed one iota. The secular magazines question the authority of the scriptures and then assert that Jesus never existed! Of course it's all confused now as to why it's 1996 instead of 5000 some-ought like the Jews have it. The point is they don't want a Jesus at all. They don't want a Son of God. He's too narrow - the One and Only way to heaven? Better to imagine that there is no heaven - no hell - no judgment - no one to give account to - no anything that says no to their own will - their own pleasure - their own way.

So what did they do back then. They



killed Him. First, they spit in His face. They beat Him with a whip. They crowned His head with thorns. They blindfolded Him, and slapped His face and mocked Him - telling Him to prophecy and say which one struck Him. They plucked out His beard with their bare hands. Then they forced Him to carry His cross out to a hill called Golgotha and there they stripped Him and nailed Him to that cross and hung Him up in shame to die. They gambled over His clothes and they mocked Him. He asked for just a little water so they gave Him vinegar and gall to drink. Then they drove a spear in His side. And what did He do? He prayed for them and He bled for them and He died for them and us too!

What had He done? He loved them enough to tell them the truth, He ministered to them spiritually, emotionally and physically. What did they do? They killed Him.

So what's the point? The point is, if that's what they did to Jesus - then that's what they'll do to His Church. I'm not talking about this harlot mess that calls itself church. I'm not talking about those who assemble weekly and tip their hat to God on Sunday morning and live like the world the rest of the week. I'm not talking about those who pretend to be Christians but who don't believe the scriptures, are half ashamed of Jesus and won't obey what He says. I'm talking about the Church - The REAL Church - the blood bought - blood washed born-again children of the living God. I'm talking about those who live His Word and are dedicated to His cause and are devoted to His interests. I'm talking about those who are eagerly awaiting His coming.

Now then, What am I telling you? Stop expecting the world to love you. Stop expecting them to appreciate you or your God or your opinions or anything else! They don't

appreciate your righteousness or your prayers or your church or anything you stand for - SO?

So, any day now you can stand up like a man or a woman and tell it like it is! Any day now you can quit side stepping the issues and make a stand for Christ. Any day now you can stop trying to please man and start trying to please God. Just any day now you can get your tail out from between your legs - wash the yellow stripe off your back - find a backbone - stand up straight and stand your ground. Just any day

**"We call ourselves  
the army of the Lord  
while millions die  
having never heard  
the name of Jesus. I  
wonder what the  
angels call us?"**

*C.T. Studd*

now you could open your mouth and command men to repent and follow Jesus.

Of course if you do this, the world will hate you. Jesus said it would. But if you do this you can stop hating yourself for your compromise and hypocrisy. If you do this you'll bring people to Jesus. If you do this you'll make God happy.

I titled this newsletter "Noodles" because that's what I'm talking about. Instead of men and women standing strong for Christ, they stand around weakly, sheepishly pretending to be humble servants of

"Gawd". Don't misunderstand, they'll come unglued if you forget to acknowledge their sacrifice or step on their toes or touch their pet sin. And God forbid you encroach on some of their authority. But now then, take them down on the street to pass out tracks or preach on the corner? - they won't go? What? It doesn't do any good? That's not the point you noodle! It does you good! It causes you to make a stand - to make a statement for Christ. It causes you to lay down your reputation and be thought a fool. It causes you to die to public opinion.

You're concerned about world missions but you won't talk to your neighbors about Christ? You're an outrageous noodle and a hypocrite too. You sing in the choir about how much you love Jesus but you don't have time to pray or read your Bible - you're a noodle. Afraid to witness? We'll start an auxiliary group for you. We'll call it Noodles for Jesus or how about Cowards for Christ?

I know you're probably laughing by now - unless you're an appalled little noodle - but the truth is that's what's wrong with Christianity today - Noodlism. We have lost the courage and conviction to tell the truth no matter what the cost. We're afraid we're going to offend someone - going to drive some-

one away. I've said it before and I'll say it again - "Where you gonna drive 'em? Hell number 2 or Hell number 3?" Pastors are being told what to preach by some little group of noodles, who are being told what to tell the pastor by Mrs. Noodle back home. Man, you know I'm right. The fact is, we are desperately lacking courageous leadership. And what is being sold-out in this deal are the kids. They need role models of Holy Boldness. They need to see Godly men and women stand up and be Godly men and women! They don't need anymore namby-

pamby weak-kneed noodles! It amazes me that the world walks around so confident in all their rebellion and sin while the church folk are constantly apologizing for believing in Jesus. The sinners aren't afraid of their wickedness offending anyone - not even God. Let me help you, while you walk around on egg shells trying not to offend the wicked, you are definitely offending a Holy God. The young people will follow strength. They will either be saved through their radical commitment to Jesus Christ supported by the strength of their Church and leaders or the wicked strength of their peer group will drag them down to hell. This noodle thing won't cut it.

So then, what now? Let me be the first to confess. I'm plain out too soft - too compassionate - too willing to cut slack and avoid confrontation and I repent. Father forgive me in Jesus name. Help me Lord - help me resist wimping out like some noodle. Baptize me with Holy Boldness and give me the courage and dedication to Wreck Hell. Let it be said of me, "The zeal of God has consumed him." Make it so in Jesus' name. Please. I pray you'll do the same.

