



# Blackfoot

## Church of Christ

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### Jesus Failed

By Mike Thomas

Jesus did not succeed in everything He could have while He was here. There were some things He failed to do:

#### **He Failed to Win the Approval of All Men.**

No human has had more love in His heart for humanity than Jesus Christ. "When He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd" (Matthew 9:36). It was this intense love that compelled Him to pray for man's salvation (verses 37-38). But despite this enormous love for mankind, the more He loved the less He was loved in return. "Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, 'Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of these do you stone Me?' Then the Jews answered Him, saying, 'For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man make Yourself God'" (John 10:31-33). If the Creator of mankind could not win the approval of all men, what makes us think we will? And why should we lose our faith in God when people don't like us? Jesus told the apostles, "A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you...They hated Me without a cause" (John 15:20, 25). This will always be true (2 Timothy 3:12), so we might as well prepare

for it. Yes, we are to be gentle, kind, and as much as depends on us live peaceably with all men. But, when our noble motives and diligent efforts still result in people disliking us, we should accept it as a fact of life. Even Jesus could not win everyone's approval nor did He try. If anything, He warned against it: "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Luke 6:26).

### **He Failed to Persuade All Men to Repent.**

There were those who witnessed the miracles and teachings of Christ, and knew He was of God, yet would not follow Him because of the trouble it would cause in their relationship with others (John 12:42-43). This cowardice did not justify their refusal to confess Christ. Instead, Jesus cried out and said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Fortunately, some of these fearful ones eventually became Christians (Acts 2:36-40), but not all who heard the teachings of Christ were persuaded to obey them. They are now in torments regretting their pride and foolishness.

Our love for mankind should be so intense that all we see when we scan a crowd is a group of eternal souls destined to give an account to God. This love should prompt us to offer them the life-giving message of the gospel. But if they still reject the truth after all of our prayers and efforts to persuade them to repent, we can find peace in knowing that even the Son of God could not convince all men to follow Him. That is a painful outcome we must accept in seeking to save lost souls. Paul cried, "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:1-3). Even Jesus could not change this reality.

Yes, Jesus failed in some things, but only in things deemed important by this world. From heaven's perspective, He succeeded in all that matters as "the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2).

### **Additional Comments by Ross Ward**

This article fits nicely with our lesson this morning. It is truly amazing that our Savior had the power to do all things but did not violate the free will of man. Jesus did not "win" every discussion, he did not convert every soul. His goal was not to win, was not to be superior, was not to Lord over others, but to server, minister, and teach.

"Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto,  
but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28

One could be tempted to be offended by one who rebelled against them, fought against them, rejected their teachings, or respond in another inappropriate way, But we did not see that from Jesus. He kept teaching and trying to convince others. Whether His teachings were received depended upon the individual. A man is tempted to win at all cost, to be preeminent, to Lord over, But Jesus was willing to be a servant and a minister, knowing that he would be rejected and even persecuted by the very people we he was trying to teach. We see from Jesus great humility, meekness, and forbearance. Take note of definitions for these words from our lesson today.

## Prayer Requests & Announcements

- Tammy Woodward is being treated for cancerous brain tumors and is experiencing problems with the treatments she is undergoing.
- Several of our number are in the recovery phase of surgeries
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Bible class studying 6:00 tonight at Chad and Kass'
- Joe Price will be bringing lessons for us May 19-24

**For prayer requests, call or text**

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

## Assignments

<b><u>Today</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Lord's Table</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Ben Palmer <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward
<b><u>Next Sunday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Ross Ward <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Lord's Table</b> – David Porter <b>Sermon</b> – Ross Ward	<b><u>Next Wednesday</u></b> <b>Bible Study</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Song Leader</b> – Chad Mitchell <b>Invitation</b> – Ross Ward

Blackfoot Church of Christ  
370 North Shilling Ave.  
Blackfoot, Idaho 83221

### **Meeting Times:**

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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