

Only Through Jesus?

“No man comes to the Father except through me” —John 14:6

This one saying by Jesus has caused a lot of anguish for many people, especially those from religions other than Christian (Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Shintoist, etc.). How can we answer those people who complain (ignorantly) about “that horrible Christian God who sends people to a place of eternal torment just because they are of a different religion”? Can we answer these people? Please consider this:

- ① Jesus once said, “Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled (or fulfilled)”. When a person looks around and sees injustice all around him, and he longs for true justice, is he not one of those that Jesus said, “...will be filled (or fulfilled)”? Will he not be filled?
- ② When a person is motivated by compassionate love, isn't that the same spirit that was in the one about whom it was said that, “...when he saw the crowd, he was moved/motivated by compassion for those people”? Is this statement true only for those who have heard the name Jesus? Is it not true concerning all who have a compassionate nature?
- ③ A person discovers that when he shows mercy, he will be shown mercy; or when he forgives, he will be forgiven? Isn't that person following (unknowingly) the one who said, “I am the truth” and taught those very same truths?
- ④ When a person recognizes the awfulness of his sins and seeks cleansing/forgiveness, isn't he coming to the one who said to an adulterous woman, “I don't condemn you; go your way but don't sin again”?
- ⑤ When a person seeks holiness, isn't he coming to the one about whom it is said, there was no blemish of sin in him?

Aren't all these people ‘coming to the Father through Jesus’?

Do you want more? Consider this saying by apostle Paul “...when those who do not have the law (that God gave through Moses), when they do by nature the things contained in the law, they...are *keeping* the law *on their own*. This shows that the...law *is* written in their hearts...” – Romans 2:14-15. Note: Paul is saying, “Those who do not have the law, they are, never-the-less, keeping the law. Or, could we not say it this way: “..by nature (or naturally)...they...are keeping the law”. Will God reject them because they have never heard the name of Jesus?

Now consider this: there are millions of people who call themselves Christians, but never do the six things that Jesus taught us to do:

- ① feed those who are hungry
- ② give a drink of water to those who are thirsty
- ③ take in strangers/foreigners
- ④ clothe those who are without clothing
- ⑤ visit those who are sick, and
- ⑥ visit those who are prisoners

Matthew 25:34-40

At the same time, there are many non-Christians who:

- ① feed those who are hungry
- ② give a drink to those who are thirsty
- ③ welcome strangers or foreigners
- ④ provide clothing for those who are in need
- ⑤ visit those who are sick, and
- ⑥ visit those who are prisoners

Matthew 25:41-46

Will God not judge justly? Will he condemn those who obey these admonitions just because they are from a non-Christian background, and welcome those who call themselves Christians, though they only keep these teachings on rare occasions when it is convenient?

So, one man half-heartedly calls on the name of Jesus, while another, not knowing his name, seeks after those things that are in the very nature, the character, the life of Jesus' name. Which one is coming to the Father through Jesus?

And, consider this saying by Jesus:

“.....the hour is coming, when everyone in the graves will hear his voice, and will come out; those who have done good *works*, to a resurrection of life; and those who have done evil *things*, to a resurrection for condemnation” (John 5:28-29).

Are there not many in the Christian religion who are proclaiming that only those who have been “saved” or “born again” (according to their limited understanding of those terms), will be saved? Are there not many in the Christian churches who do not recognize that those outside of their religion who, hungering and thirsting for truth, are participating “in Jesus' nature”? –and that is regardless of what religion—or lack of religion—they are in?

So it is, many (millions) who proclaim themselves saints, Christians, church members, one of the chosen ones, etc., will find out that their trusting in their church membership will not save them. How shocked and horrified they will be on that day! But their church leaders who have led them to trust in their church membership to get them into the kingdom of heaven, will be held more responsible and therefore will be guilty of a greater sin.

Do you want more? Consider this:

A person grew up in a Muslim society or a Hindu society or in a Communist society, or some other non-Christian culture. All his life this person has heard about all the “awful” things that Christians do (and some of them are true), and he has learned to hate those things (most of which are lies, even though some are true). If this person hungers and thirsts for righteousness (Matthew 5:6), he will “rightly” hate those evil things that the Communists do, that the Hindus do, and that the Muslims and others do. Sometimes he will even condemn the Christians for all of the evil things he has heard they are doing—and be justified in doing it!

But the above is about people from a non-Christian background. What if this person was raised by people who call themselves ‘Christian’, but they live in the same evils as the pagan world around them? This person, who is hungering and thirsting for righteousness, sees the evils of his own people, and he turns away from them. By turning away from those evil things and living a righteous life, his life becomes an offense or a condemnation to his family and friends. Can he, should he judge the things those people are doing? Let us take heed to the words that our Lord Jesus spoke to us: “Judge righteous judgment”.

On the Day of Judgment, what will God look at? Won’t he look at the heart of the person who is hungering and thirsting for righteousness? Will the eternal judge condemn him for condemning the Christians for all the evil things he heard they are doing?

Following is a story about a young lady who followed godly ways for 24 years before she came to know Jesus’ name.

Mimosa....

was born in India’s Hindu culture. When she was four-years-old, her father took her to visit a Christian mission. Though they spent just a few hours at this mission, Mimosa heard someone mention “a god who created all things, yet loves her”. Though that word was but a brief moment in Mimosa’s young life, it dominated the rest of Mimosa’s life. She didn’t even know the name of that god, but she spent many years praying to “the God who loves her”. She constantly worshiped Him and no longer worshiped Siva, her family’s god. Somehow, she knew to refused her family’s religious customs. But this angered her family so much that they beat her. But no amount of beatings could make her stop believing in the God who loved her. With absolutely no Christian friends, no Bible (she couldn’t read), and no teaching whatsoever, the Holy Spirit guided this girl all of her life.

Mimosa was given in marriage to a Hindu man. When he was bit by a snake, she knew her God would not be pleased if she called upon the charmers to heal him. All of the women of the village scorned her harshly. She overcame trial after heart-wrenching trial, praying fervently on her knees and holding out her dress (or sari) in supplication to the God who loves her.

It was only after she had borne five children and was looking for a good school in which to enroll her sons, that she went back to visit the Christian mission (then 28 years old). That was when she learned that her God’s name was Jesus! So it is, that God’s spirit finds “those who hunger and thirst for righteousness” and “fills them” (*Matthew 5:6*).

The name of the missionary who started the Christian mission in India is Amy Carmichael. Though it had been 24 years, Amy remembered Mimosa and was amazed and thrilled to learn how Mimosa had stayed faithful to her Lord. Amy wrote a 147-page book about Mimosa. Name of the book: **Mimosa**

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