

## Mark 9:39-40

***But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. For he who is not against us is on our side."***

Here's a self-examination we should all be doing, and that is. Are we known more for what we are against, or for what, or should I say, Who we are for?

Do people think we are all about being against certain issues, or being against a certain political party?

Are we thought of as those who constantly speak against those who are gay, or bisexual, or alcoholics, or those who live together outside of marriage, or even those who are well off financially?

Are we well known for being those people who go to bars or watch movies that glorify sin, or that use sin as our entertainment in movies, TV, and the music we listen to, as well as going to church on Sunday?

Or are we known for being a follower of Jesus?

I think we have all, at one time or another, acted like the disciples did when they said.

† ***Luke 9:53-54 (NLT2) But the people of the village did not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to Jerusalem. When James and John saw this, they said to Jesus, "Lord, should we call down fire from heaven to burn them up?"***

We are so quick to have others punished for the things we know are wrong, almost like, "*Get those darn sinners out of here, they are messing up our cities, our schools, our nation and the world.*" Yet we forget that we were just like them, some of us were even worse than they are, and some still commit some of the same sins that they do, or at least condone them by allowing them to be in our entertainment (movies, TV, music, what we look at on our phones and the internet).

Yet are people coming to us or running from us? When we enter the room full of non-believers, does their conversation change and do some of them start to leave, because they feel like we are judging them? Or when problems arise, do they come to us for prayer and counsel, or are they going to some other means because we are known for how we speak about others (putting them down and being judgmental), and they don't want counsel from someone like that?

When we read the gospels, we read that the things Jesus was known for were, healing others, feeding others, speaking God's word in truth and in love. He was known for His compassion and caring for everyone, and not just an elect group of people.

† **Luke 7:22-23** *Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."*

In these evil times, we are told to pray, and if we are known for praying for those in need and are caught up in sin, then we will be known as followers of Jesus and being loving and caring for the lost. Because when you pray for them, you also get off your knees and minister to them as well.

† **2 Timothy 1:8-9** *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.*

† **Acts 20:24** *But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.*