

Volume 2, Day 32: Safety in Numbers? [JH]

In a weekly men's breakfast Bible study last week a brother stood up and said, "I come here every week to have other people reinforce what I believe!" He was as serious as a tooth ache. And some others chimed in with that same sentiment. I cringed when I heard those words!

My thoughts shifted to the scene of the mock trial of Jesus the night before He was crucified. The apparent 'safety in numbers' mentality created a mob of hatred filled religious people. Jesus was being accused of atrocities which He had not committed. He was being called a blasphemer. He was being condemned to death. And this was not just 'any' death. This was the most inhumane of all criminal punishments ever administered by humanity. But, was Jesus truly in the wrong? Absolutely not!

I continued to ponder that the religious leaders of the religion of God's own people, Israel, were the ones who not only reinforce what we believe, but also have been the ones who taught us what we currently believe. Now, to be sure, the Son of God was not a criminal in any way. But, to be sure as well, He did not seek the reinforcement of what He believed from any human gathering, religion or community. And even the Holy Bible itself tells us to challenge fresh truth when we hear it. But the directive is to try to prove it to be true, not prove it to be false. **Jesus' message** was **radical**. But it was **true**!

For some reason, we feel safer following the mob of religious, but self-righteous, people than walking almost alone on the narrow way of Jesus. I strongly suggested to the men there that they seek new truth in these gatherings rather than simply restate the same truths they have believed for decades. Even science takes a **theory** of possible new truth and performs **experiments** to **prove it to be true**.