

# Jesus Loves Righteousness

- The heavenly Father said this about His Son: “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness” (Hebrews 1:9).
- Jesus Himself spoke of His love for righteousness: “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38).
- But Jesus did more than just talk about His love for righteousness—He proved it!

## And Here's How He Proved It...

- By His baptism.
  - Matthew 3:13–15.
  - Others refused—Luke 7:30.
  - Jesus commands all today to be baptized in His name for the remission of sins (Matt. 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; Acts 2:38).
  - If we love righteousness, we will gladly obey this commandment.

## And Here's How He Proved It...

- By driving the moneychangers from the temple.
  - *First time:* John 2:13–17. *Second time:* Matt. 21:12–13; Mark 11:15–18; Luke 19:45–48.
  - He couldn't stand what they had done to His Father's house—making it a “house of merchandise” (John 2:16), and a “den of thieves” (Mark 11:17).
  - Where is that same righteous indignation among us today?

## And Here's How He Proved It...

- By resisting every temptation.
  - Hebrews 4:14–16.
  - Constantly harassed, tested, but kept doing and saying the right thing. Luke 11:53–54; 20:19–20.
  - Those who truly love righteousness will fight temptation at every turn.
  - And because Jesus “was in all points tempted as we are,” He is able to help us. Hebrews 2:16–18.

## And Here's How He Proved It...

- By continuing to preach the truth, even when many of His own disciples turned away.
  - John 6:60–66.
  - If Jesus had sought popularity and big numbers like many, he would have given people what they wanted to hear, rather than what they needed to hear (truth).
  - If we love righteousness, we will teach the truth—period!

## And Here's How He Proved It...

- By the people He regarded as family.
  - Matthew 12:46–50.
  - He felt the closest to those who had the same love for righteousness He did.
  - If we truly love righteousness, we will also feel a kinship to those like-minded.

## And Here's How He Proved It...

- By His commitment to the cross.
  - Matthew 26:36–44.
  - As difficult as this was for Jesus personally, He was still committed to doing the Father's will.
  - When torn between our will and the Father's will, remember the phrase, "not as I will, but as You will."
  - If we love righteousness, we will do right, no matter how much personal hardship it may bring.

# Application

- Talk is cheap; we need to prove our love for righteousness.



# Application

- By being baptized (if we haven't already).
- By speaking out against those who have defiled the Father's house.
- By resisting every temptation.
- By continuing to preach the truth.
- By regarding as family those who have the same love for righteousness.
- By doing the Father's will, no matter how hard it may seem at the time.