

# Avoiding Trouble

“Now Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that he was gaining and baptizing more disciples than John although in fact it was not Jesus who baptized, but his disciples. So he left Judea and went back once more to Galilee.”

John 4:1-3 (NIV)

Some years ago a Christian worker who taught in a seminary found he was being pushed out of his work.

Another professor was jealous of the man's popularity with the students and so he sought to make life miserable for the popular professor.

Criticism and false accusations were presented to the board of governors at the seminary.

When the man who was falsely accused realized his days were numbered, he quietly offered his resignation and left his much-loved students and work.

That man was seeking peace, and knew that if he did not resign that the school would be rocked with dissent and there could possibly be a split. He chose the way of peace over demanding his rights.

Jesus taught us to be peacemakers. He practiced what

He preached.

As our verses indicate, He knew that if He stayed in Judea He would be the center of attention by the Pharisees.

These men were jealous of Jesus' popularity with the common people. If they could find Him they would attack Him and seek to ruin His ministry. So Jesus left Judea and went up north to His own province of Galilee.

Some of us find ourselves in a similar situation.

Angry people—possibly jealous of us—seek to gossip and spread lies about us in order to create trouble for us.

If you find yourself the object of evil words; if you are unfairly criticized; if people seek to ruin your reputation, remember that this was done to Jesus long before it happened to you.

You can stay in the situation and fight for your rights, or you can quietly leave and let

the evil people have their day of victory.

The righteous Judge of all humanity will right the wrong done to you.

Wait on the Lord to vindicate your situation.

Perhaps it will not be in this lifetime that you receive justice. But justice will be done at last.

God will do in that day what you should not attempt today. Leave the matter with Him.

Avoid trouble and a sovereign God shall see that you have justice done at last.

The wheel of God's justice grinds exceedingly slowly, but it grinds exceedingly fine.

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