

Esther and Emmett – January 30 2022

Esther: Hi Emmett.

Emmett: Hi Esther.

Esther: What are you doing?

Emmett: I was just thinking about Jesus and feeling sorry for him.

Esther: Because he was crucified?

Emmett: Huh! No, although that wasn't good. No, I was feeling sorry for Jesus because he couldn't make money in his hometown.

Esther: What?

Emmett: Jesus couldn't make money in his hometown. That's what he said in the Bible.

Esther: When did Jesus say that?

Emmett: When he was back home in Nazareth. He said that he couldn't make any profit in in his hometown.

Esther: Oh Emmett!

Emmett: Let me guess. I did it again. That's not exactly what Jesus said?

Esther: Jesus said that 'no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown.'

Emmett: Doesn't that mean that Jesus couldn't accept a profit in his hometown? That he couldn't make any money there?

Esther: We're actually talking about two different things. You're talking about profits and Jesus was talking about prophets!

Emmett: That doesn't sound like two different things to me!

Esther: That's because there are two words that in English are both pronounced the same way – profit and prophet.

Emmett: They sure sound the same to me!

Esther: But they are spelt differently and have different meanings.

Emmett: Really! So which profit is which?

Esther: One word is spelt P-R-O-F-I-T. That word 'profit' is about money. If you make a profit, you make more money that you spend on your business, or when you sell something. For example, if you it costs you \$10 to make a cake, but you sell it for \$20, you will have sold it for \$10 more than the cost of making it.

Emmett: So, I would make a profit of ...ten dollars!

Esther: Right. Then there is the other word that is spelt P-R-O-P-H-E-T.

Emmett: So that word has a 'p-h' rather than an 'f', and ends with an 'et' rather than an 'it.!

Esther Right. And that kind of prophet is a person who has experienced God somehow, and who tells people what God wants, how God wants them to live, how God cares about them.

Emmett: I'm going to guess that that kind of prophet doesn't make a lot of money?

Esther: Prophets aren't trying to make money. They are telling people about God. Usually prophets use poetry, and stories and lots of creative and odd ways to tell people about God.

Emmett: And they aren't trying to make money? I guess that would make them seem odd to lots of people.

Esther: There are lots of prophets in the Bible, telling people that God wants them to care for people who are poor, and feed people who are hungry.

Emmett: Jesus did that! I guess that means that Jesus was a prophet. Come to think of it, we never hear of Jesus making much money. I guess he was a prophet who didn't make a profit. I think I made a joke!

Esther: That may actually be one of the reasons that prophets were not accepted in their hometowns...at least, it may be one of the reasons that people were upset with Jesus.

Emmett: I saw that in the story in the Bible. The people got really angry at Jesus and chased him the edge of a cliff. I couldn't figure out why they were so angry.

Esther: Well, they had heard about Jesus visiting other villages and of people being healed and heard that people wanted to come to hear the stories Jesus told and to listen to him talk about God.

Emmett: That's one of the reasons I like reading about Jesus in the Bible. I like hearing his stories and what he says about God's love. So, how come the people in his hometown got angry with Jesus?

Esther: Well, it would have been common in that time for people to help out their hometowns.

Emmett: Sounds like a good thing to do!

Esther: So, if they thought that people wanted to see and hear Jesus, they probably thought that people would be willing to travel to come to wherever Jesus was located.

Emmett: I can see why they would think that?

Esther: So, if Jesus would set up shop in Nazareth, people would come to Nazareth to see him. And that would mean that the people who came might have to buy food while they were in Nazareth, or pay for a place to stay while they were in Nazareth. Or people in Nazareth could set up booths to sell things they had made.

Emmett: You mean like we did that summer when we had a lemonade stand on the lawn? That was fun. Hey, did we make a profit that summer?

Esther: I don't remember, but it was fun.

Emmett: I wonder if the people in Jesus' hometown liked lemonade!

Esther: They probably would have liked anything that would earn some money from people coming to see Jesus.

Emmett: So, you're saying that the people in Jesus' hometown probably wanted to make a profit from having a prophet in their town? Hey, that sounded clever.

Esther: That was clever. Yes, the people may have expected Jesus to work from Nazareth and from people to come there to see him, and so everyone in the town would benefit from the money spent by the visitors.

Emmett: So that's why they got angry?

Esther: Possibly. The story says that after Jesus read the scripture everyone spoke well of Jesus and were amazed at his words! They apparently were impressed by Jesus.

Emmett: That didn't seem to last for long.

Esther: No, because Jesus reminded them of stories about two other prophets who had lived many years before then. Those prophets had helped someone who was poor and someone who was sick, but the people they helped were from another countries.

Emmett: I bet that didn't make those prophets very popular in their hometowns!

Esther: Probably not!

Emmett: So, when the people heard Jesus talk about what those other prophets did, the people figured that Jesus was saying that he also wouldn't be staying in his hometown to do the stuff God told him to do.

Esther: And that would have made the people angry.

Emmett: I guess that it really is easier for a prophet to open a lemonade stand somewhere other than in their hometown!

Esther: If God wanted them to have a lemonade stand, because prophets are guided by God.

Emmett: And they help God make the world better and people more loving.

Esther: Amen to that!

Emmett: Amen!