

The Lord's Message: Jesus Rejected

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Where: Tilghman UMC

Scripture Reference: Luke 4:16-30

Wow, after Jesus, the Son of God, takes the scroll and reads the prophecy in Isaiah 61 concerning Him, the people that have been going to this synagogue do not cheer Jesus on, but have the opposite reaction. They want to condemn Jesus and reject him for making this claim that Jesus is the Messiah. You know every so often your own words will come back to bite you. I was just talking to someone, saying to them about giving the message on Sunday. That if you make a mistake in church, there is grace. People will forgive you. So do not be scared of making a mistake. Jesus did not find any grace. Let us look at the reasons.

Let us pray.

Jesus has just come back from being out in the desert. This occurred right after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. Remember Jesus was baptized in the Jordan by his cousin, John. When Jesus came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in what can best be describe as a dove. God the Father spoke from Heaven and said "You are my Son, whom I love, I am well pleased with you." After this momentous occasion, the Holy Spirit led Jesus out into the desert where Jesus was tested by the Devil for forty days and forty nights. After this ordeal was over, Jesus returned to Galilee and taught people about the kingdom of God. Jesus also healed people of various infirmities. Now, Jesus makes His way to His hometown of Nazareth. Jesus most likely went home to Mary and to have some time to rest. That was not going to last long.

Jesus, following the Jewish religious customs, goes to the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath. It was also was the custom for traveling Rabbis to read and teach from the Torah. Jesus selects this very well-known passage of scripture. Jesus reads verses 18-19. Jesus then rolled up the scroll gave it back to the attendant and sat down. All eyes were now focused on Jesus. He spoke to them and said, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

This startled everyone. They started saying that they were amazed at the graciousness of His words. Some started to say, "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

The people wanted Jesus to perform the miracles in Nazareth that He had done in other places. Jesus knew this and said to them, "Surely you will quote this proverb to me: Physician

heal yourself!” In verses 24-27, Jesus tells them that they will not accept Him, instead they will reject Him.

Instead of being proud of Jesus, in verse 28, they now become furious with Him. They got so upset with Him that they drove him out of town. They were in the process of throwing Him off the cliff, when somehow Jesus mysteriously walks through the crowd and goes on His way.

This would not be the only rejection that Jesus would face. Pharisees, the teachers of the law, rejected Jesus. In **Matthew 9 :1-8**, Jesus heals a man that is paralyzed. Jesus faced the rejection of His own disciple, Judas. We find this in **Matthew 26:14-16**. When Pilate is trying to release Jesus, the crowds shout, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” In **Matthew 27: 27-31**, the soldiers reject Jesus. At the cross, everyone rejected Jesus (**Matthew 27: 39-44**) So, we have the people of His hometown in Nazareth rejecting Jesus. The Pharisees rejected Jesus. Jesus was rejected by his own disciples. The crowds rejected Jesus. The soldiers rejected Jesus and at the cross everyone rejected Jesus. You and I have rejected Jesus as well. We reject Jesus when we have not obeyed God’s laws. We have sinned against God. The Good News is that Jesus knew this and still died to pay our sins.

As Christians, we should expect that we are going to be rejected as well. Jesus told His disciples to expect this to happen. In **Luke 10:1, 5-11**, Jesus sends out 72 disciples by groups of two. Jesus gives instructions on how they are to act when they encounter rejection. Jesus knew that not only would they face rejection, but all believers would face rejection as well. So, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed for us (**John 17:20-26**).

We know that Jesus was rejected. We have all experienced rejection. The number one reason that Christians face rejection by their families, their friends, and the world is by telling them about The Gospel. So, how should a Christian handle rejection?

First, we should not take rejection personally. We know that Jesus was well liked. People followed Jesus because He was wise, healed people of all kinds of diseases, and ministered to everyone. Jesus was rejected because Jesus told people that truth. If people are turned off by the truth, then we know that people have not accepted God and His love for them. If they knew the truth, the truth would set them free.

Second, we should pray for those that have rejected us. In **Matthew 5:44**, Jesus says for us to pray for those who persecute us.

Third, we should assess our motives. What was the reason that we engaged this person? Was it to win them to Christ? Was it to put a notch in our disciple belt? Or was it to get to know who this person is. Jesus started by creating a relationship with the person. Jesus got to know who the person was and what the person's need was. Paul says in **Colossians 3:17**.

Fourth, we should reconsider our methods. Did we come on too strong? Was the language that we used attacking the person? Were we debating or arguing with the person to prove that we were right? Paul gave advice to Timothy on the methods to use when engaging a person. Look at **2 Timothy 2:24**.

Fifth, we should also pray to God before engaging a person. If the person rejects us, we should pray that God will give us another chance. What is the old saying, at first if you do not succeed, then try again? Remember, God allows people to reject Him. Christians should allow people to reject them.

We should not be surprised that the world would reject us, because the world rejected Jesus. That doesn't mean we should stop telling people about Jesus. Amen.