

# THE MISSION & REJECTION OF JESUS Text: Luke 4:16-30

1. **Unique Event in History when Alexander the Great read about himself in the Bible**
  - a. Alexander the Great's Rise to Power was Astonishing
  - b. He Became King of Greece by the age of 20... And Conquered the World by 30.
  - c. But During His Military Campaigns, Jerusalem refused to send supplies to him when he was in battle against the city of Tyre...
  - d. Alexander was furious and was set to destroy Jerusalem
  - e. The Jewish Historian Josephus Recorded that when Alexander the Great approached Jerusalem, the High Priest Went Out to Meet Him Outside the City...
  - f. The High Priest explained that the Scriptures had prophesied he would arrive Showing from the book of Daniel that he would defeat the Persian King and conquer the Persian Empire.
  - g. As a Result Alexander Spared Jerusalem...
2. **But This Morning We See When Jesus read about Himself in the Bible...**
  - a. But instead of being Received with a special greeting from the High Priest, showing where Jesus was spoken of in the Bible...
  - b. The People Rejected Jesus and Tried to Throw Him off a Cliff to Kill Him

***This is A Preview of Jesus' Mission and Rejection for Our Salvation***

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## I. THE MISSION & REJECTION OF JESUS

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### **A. WE SEE THE MISSION OF JESUS IS A SPIRITUAL MISSION... (4:16–21)**

1. **Sin impoverishes & bankrupts our souls—Jesus brings good news to the poor**
2. **Sin breaks hearts—Jesus Heals the brokenhearted.**
3. **Sin makes people captive and enslaves them—Jesus sets them free.**
4. **Sin blinds us and deceives us with darkness—Jesus heals our spiritual and moral blindness so we can see.**
5. **Sin oppresses its victims—Only Jesus brings liberty to the oppressed.**
6. **The Acceptable Year of the Lord—this Pivotal Point in History,  
When God Sent His Son to Die for the Sins of the World to inaugurate  
the New Covenant and the Eternal Kingdom by His Blood.**

### **B. BUT WE SEE HIS SPIRITUAL MISSION IS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD...**

1. **There were Many Misunderstandings of the Messiah...**
  - a) Israel Had Been under the Yoke of Foreign Powers for Centuries...
  - b) The Babylonians... the Assyrians... the Greeks... and Now the Romans.
  - c) So They wanted the Messiah to Set them Free Politically, Nationally, Militarily

#### **2. But That Was NOT the Mission of the Messiah...**

**Jesus did not come to earth to be:**

- (1)–A POLITICAL Messiah (2)–Or MILITARY Messiah (3)–JEWISH NATIONALIST Messiah  
(4)– Or a WISH–FULFILLMENT Messiah

**3. The Mission Was NOT for Jesus to be a Wish-Fulfillment Messiah that Just Gives Us Whatever We Want!**

- a) Jesus came to Set Us Free from the Poverty, Sorrow, Enslavement, Darkness and Oppression of Sin.
- b) Jesus Did NOT come to Change Political, or Economic or Military Systems...
- c) Jesus Came to Change People ...

And By Changing People Jesus Changed the World

**C. MIRACLES CANNOT CREATE FAITH IN A PERSON WHERE IT DOES NOT EXIST**

**1. The People Said, Whatever you did in Capernaum do it here...**

- a) Meaning they Doubted the Reports of Jesus Miracles
- b) so They're Saying We Want to See a Sign Right Here in Nazareth

**2. If Miracles Were All That Were Needed for Faith—Jesus Could've Performed a Miracle in Nazareth and They Would All Believe...**

- a) Jesus said, **"4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign" (Mt 16:4)**
- b) Because it's Testing the Lord: 'Maybe I Will Believe, IF You Do Want We Want.'
- c) Wanting a Wish-Fulfillment Messiah to Do Whatever We Want—is NOT Faith!

**3. Faith is not from Miracles—Faith is from the Word of God...**

- a) So The Purpose of Miracles was not to produce faith...
- b) The Purpose of Miracles was to Confirm the Word of God
- c) "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of God" **(Rom. 10:17)**

**4. Without Faith— Even a Great Miracle Won't Help Them! (Luke 16:31)**

**Jesus was raised from the grave and still many do not believe**

**D. WE ALSO SEE THAT OUR BIASES CAN BLIND US TO THE TRUTH...**

**1. FIRST there was a Bias against Jesus (v.22-24)**

- a) "Isn't this Joseph's Son?" Jesus said, "No prophet is accepted in his own country."
- b) It has been said: "Familiarity Breeds Contempt"
- c) So Probably Some Jealousy... Some Envy... Some Contempt...
- d) If You're the Messiah Prove it Here in Your Home Town
- e) Why Are You Helping Capernaum and Not Us?

**2. SECOND was a CULTURAL & RACIAL Bias Against Gentiles (v.25–30)**

- a) This Widow was a Gentile—But God Heard Her Prayers and Helped Her
- b) Namaan was a Gentile Syrian Military Commander—But God Healed His Leprosy
- c) This is What God Their Teeth Grinding Against Jesus!

**3. When a Person, or even a Culture, Chooses a World-View Ideology...**

- a) They They're Forced to Carry that World-view Ideology Like a Weight on their Back
- b) Everything Has to be Forced Into that Ideology... EVEN IF IT DOESN'T FIT!
- c) But the Truth Sets us Free—Jesus Yoke is Easy and His Burden is Light
- d) He Went to the Cross to Take Away Our Burden, to Open Our Eyes, to set the Captives Free, to Heal our Broken Hearts!

## **E. THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL...**

- 1. It Gospel of the Kingdom of God Goes beyond boundaries we place on it**
  - a) Ethnic boundaries, Cultural Boundaries, National Boundaries
- 2. They Should Have Known This from the Scriptures!**
  - a) This was the Promise of God to Abraham (**Gen 22:18; 26:4**)
  - b) The Word of the Lord to Isaiah (**Isaiah 2:2**)
  - c) And through the Prophet Daniel (**Daniel 7:14**)
- 3. This is the Great Commission: (**Matthew 28:19–20**)**
  - a) To All Nations... Going... Teaching... Baptizing
  - b) America is only 3% of the World's Population!
  - c) 98% of the World is outside the US!
- 4. The Gospel is for All Nations, Languages and Peoples...**
  - a) Republicans and Democrats, Liberals and Conservatives,
  - b) Vaxed and un-vaxed! Introverts and Extraverts!
  - c) Rich and Poor, Young and Old, Male and Female, Friendly and Mean...

## **F. THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL PEOPLE—BUT NOT ALL PEOPLE ACCEPT IT**

- 1. This Widow is a Gentile—Not a Jew...**

**—SO WHY DID GOD HELP HER?**  
**—Because She TRUSTED & OBEYED THE WORD OF THE LORD**

  - a) It was a Severe Famine— Elijah had no food, water or place to stay...
  - b) She had only 1 last bit of flour to feed herself and her starving son
  - c) Elijah told her bring me a cup of water, bread and a place to stay and your flour and oil will not run out the entire Famine (**1 Kings 17:15–16**)
- 2. Naaman was a Syrian Military General – Captain of Syrian Army...**

**He Also was a Gentile—Not a Jew... Afflicted with Leprosy**  
**—SO WHY DID GOD HEAL HIM?**  
**—Because He TRUSTED & OBEYED THE WORD OF THE LORD!**

  - a) Naaman had a Jewish servant girl who told him our prophet of Israel could heal you
  - b) So Naaman went to Elisha who told him to wash 7x in the Jordon River
  - c) Naaman was offended and at first refused! (**2 Kings 5:10–14**)
  - d) But his wise servant said: If the Prophet had told you to do some thing great wouldn't you've done it? How much more to just wash and be clean?
  - e) So Naaman changed His Mind and Immersed himself 7x in Jordon and on the 7th time he was healed!
- 3. Q: Who are the People of God?      A: Those Who Do His Will!**

**(Mt 12:50 > Mt 7:21 > 1 John 2:17)**
- 4. The Gospel is for all—but Not All Accept that It's Promises Are Only Given to Those Who Humbly Trust and Obey God**

## **G. PEOPLE ATTACK OTHERS RATHER THAN FACE THEIR OWN FAILURES**

- 1. Which is exactly what these people do when confronted with the truth!**
  - a) They Literally Try to Kill Jesus... They Want to Throw Him Off a Cliff
- 2. When a Person or a Culture Accepts a False-Ideology for their Lives...**
  - a) They Not Only Have to Carry it with them
  - b) They Have to Defend it or Reject it Based on the TRUTH
  - c) Here they Defend their False Ideology by Trying to Kill the Messenger of Truth
- 3. Many Attack Christ and His Church Rather than Face Their Own Failures**
  - a) They Attack the Character of God...
  - b) They Attack the Church of Christ
  - c) They Attack the Bible...
- 4. The Truth Sounds Like Hate, to Those Who Hate the Truth!**
  - a) So They Take the Good News of Grace Offered by God through Jesus Christ  
—and turn it into Bad News...
  - b) Because They Are Insulted by the Truth...  
—So They Attack Others Rather than Face Their Own Failures

## **H. LIKE JESUS, WE CANNOT GET DISCOURAGED BY REJECTION**

- 1. They Marveled at Jesus words... But it Did NOT change their hearts...**
  - a) Not Even Jesus Himself was enough to change their hearts
- 2. What a Horrible Start to the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry!**

**They Took Him to the Edge of a Cliff to Kill Him!**

  - a) Wouldn't This have been the perfect time for Jesus to cast Himself from the pinnacle of the cliff and let His angels catch Him?
  - b) Just as the Devil had tempted Him to do in the Wilderness?
- 3. But Jesus simply passed between them through this blood-thirsty mob**
  - a) And He Did Not Quit, or Become Angry or let Discouragement stop the Mission
- 4. Not Everyone is Going to Like You...**

Jesus said, **A student is not above his teacher. If they rejected me, they will reject you.**

  - a) But Don't Let that Discourage You! Just Move On!
  - b) Keep Growing, Keep Going Forward and Don't Look Back

## **CONCLUSION:**

- 1. Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ and neither was Jesus!**
- 2. Jesus endured the shame of rejection... the Shame of Crucifixion**
- 3. So that We Could be Baptized Into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins**

let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1b-2)