

People Reject Jesus
Jan 31, 2010
1Sam 8:4-9 and Mark 6:1-6a
Dr. Jeff H. McCrory Jr.

Synopsis:

God has a plan to fix things here on earth, to redeem and restore the creation through the Son of God, Jesus. What is amazing is that we reject this plan. Why?

Even in the face of amazement, wisdom, and power people reject Jesus, God's plan, due to disbelief.

I.

Why Do People Reject Jesus?

Mark 6:3 They took offense at him

A cure for the disease: Scenario

You go to the doctor for a cure for cancer. She says, "I have a cure." You reply, "No thanks, Doc, I'd rather not."

Can you imagine this scenario?

Fact: People reject Jesus

- family members
- friends
- co-workers

*What's behind this?

Fear: "I don't want to be well, it's frightening."

Threat: "Don't upset my lifestyle!"

Control: "Rather reign in hell than serve in heaven"

Enjoy sin: "My precious!" (Gollum, *Lord of the Rings*)

*You have experiences like this among your friends and family, maybe in yourself. Why don't we want Jesus?

II.

It Happened to Jesus

Mark 6:1 He left that place and came to his hometown

The Bible and Mark's Gospel record rejection

The Bible records people rejecting God

1. **Pharaoh:** Hardens his own heart; God hardens his heart
*we harden our heart at times; God hardens our hearts?
2. **Samuel:** People reject God and want a king

- *we want to be in control
- 3. **Jeremiah:** Thrown into a pit to silence
 - *we don't want to hear criticism
- 4. **Amos:** Told to go home to Tekoa
 - *we'd rather enjoy prosperity than think of others

SUM: Plenty of places where people reject God

Mark's Gospel:

- 1. Mark 7:1-8 = Pharisees reject because of rules
 - *we have our rules don't we
- 2. Mark 11:27-33 = Scribes/elders reject because of authority
 - *we don't want people intruding into our stuff
- 3. Mark 12:1-12 = Parable of wicked tenants
 - *we want control over God
- 4. Mark 14:43-72 = Judas betrays, disciples flee, Peter denies
 - *we embezzle, we fear and run

SUM: Plenty of places where people reject Jesus

Hometown Story: LOOK at Mark 6:1-6a

- Going home: Ever go home?
- Reaction: astounded!
- Questions: Wisdom, Power, Family
- *notice "this guy" "son of Mary"
- Jesus can't do much: belief and power go together

Scandal of Jesus: God comes in the ordinary!
 Scandal of Christianity: God comes in the ordinary!
 -We want POW! BIFF! WOW!
 -God shows up in a hometown boy!

III.

It Happens to Us

Mark 6:6a He was amazed at their unbelief

- What about us?
- What about our family and friends?
- What can we learn and do given this story?

Lessons to learn:

- 1. We are hard-hearted

- problem is the human heart “deceitful above all else”
- think of addiction: We want to change but are addicted
- Helmut Thielicke on Nazis: “unredeemed human heart”

*problem isn't out there, it's in here (point to heart)

*Examine yourself for hard-heartedness

- ask someone else

- pray about your hard heart

2. Others are hard-hearted = unbelief

- arguments, pleas, reason aren't the issue

Bertrand Russell: “Sir, you didn't give me enough evidence”

- not can't but won't believe:

Aldous Huxley:

“I had motives for not wanting the world to have a meaning We objected to the morality because it interfered with our sexual freedom.”

- we aren't the issue: “Oh, *I failed* to convince my son!”

*Prayer is most effective means for disbelief

- this is the Holy Spirit's work

- mystery of good news is God acting

- put others you know in daily prayer

3. Know you like Jesus will be rejected

- expect rejection, rejoice when accepted

- Jesus kept on witnessing, that is our charge

- keep on talking, praying, telling the story

- planting seeds: Dale House

- timing is God's not ours

*Take courage in your witness

God works through us even though it isn't our work