

Why Do Men Despise Him So - part 2

Isa 53:1-3 ¹ Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? ² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. ³ He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Last Lord's Day we began to consider this question, "Why do men despise Him so?" I would remind you this morning that our Lord did not come in the pomp and glory of an earthly king as men would have desired. Rather we read that He came in a lowly condition even being born in a stable. The Scriptures have made us aware that He abased and emptied himself of that eternal glory He had with the Father before the world was. And when men saw nothing of that worldly splendor or temporal fame that they as natural men desire, being self-centered and vain creatures Jesus offered them nothing they considered of any value or worth, that is no present glory, power, or the praise of man and because of this they saw nothing in Christ that they should desire Him.

They were looking for a Messiah that would come in great power and earthly glory, one that would surely overthrow the rule of Rome and place them upon earthly thrones of temporal glory. This mindset was even exhibited among the disciples of the Lord as they argued among themselves as to who would sit at the right hand of the Christ in His kingdom and often asked, "Will you restore the kingdom at this time?" And therefore unless the arm of the Lord is revealed to men it is not possible for them to discern nor are they able to come to the knowledge of the true goodness, power and glory of the kingdom of God as it was revealed in Christ Jesus.

Dear church of our Lord, it is only because of the goodness and mercy of God granted to you, that you do see a wondrous beauty in Jesus Christ this morning. Yet even in this day we see Him as one whom the world rejects, so let us consider these questions before us this morning, Why do men hate Him so? Why was, the Lord of glory, a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief? Why do men turn their backs upon the Lord?

A. Why do men hate Him so? - *He is despised and rejected by men*

1. There was nothing in our Lord that **should cause** men to despise Him
 - a. He was sinless - not a stone could have rightly been cast at Him.
 - b. Jesus on the Temple steps - *Which of you convicts Me of sin? John 8:46*
 - c. Pilate - *I find no fault in Him*
 - d. We have the witness of Scripture itself. *Heb 7:26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens.;*
2. But it was that very holiness that caused men to despise Him. - *Jesus answered them, "Many **good works I have shown you** from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" John 10:32*
 - a. Remember the one in school that always got good grades
 - b. One can feel quite good about themselves until they stand in the light of God's perfect holiness.
3. He spoke truth and took away their comfort zone

*John 8:40 But now you **seek to kill Me**, a Man who has **told you the truth**.*

John 7:7 The world . . . hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil.

4. Men are completely too wrapped up in the moment, in the pleasures of this world.
 - a. He will remove my means of sinful gain
 - b. Political standing
 - c. But Jesus taught an either/or concerning their wealth

*Luke 16:13-15 "No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." Now the Pharisees, who **were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they derided Him.***

5. The core reason for their hatred of Christ was because of sin in their own heart.

John 3:19-20 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

6. Their rejection of our Lord resulted in His crucifixion

Luke 23:18-21 18 And they all cried out at once, saying, "Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas" Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. But they shouted, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"

B. Why was, this Lord of glory a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief?

1. He grieved for the uncared for sheep

Matt 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

2. He grieved for the very ones who hated Him the most

Matt 23:37 "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!

Luke 19:41-42 41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it,

C. He came to redeem them and they turned their backs upon Him - *And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him;*

1. His disciples slept as He prayed in the Garden
2. They all fled and Peter denied Him
3. He came to His own and His own received Him not
4. Our Lord suffered alone in our place

CONCLUSION: When Jesus said "My kingdom is NOT of this world" natural man wanted nothing to do with Him and therefore we saw him despised and rejected by men.

Years have passed but times have not changed, for even to this day, men do not want Jesus of humility, of truthfulness exposing our sinfulness and helpless condition.

Men still look upon Jesus with contempt.

It is important that we understand that men will look upon the faithful church that speaks truth with that same contempt.

But men still need to be made to see their sinfulness that they may see their need of a Redeemer

But Christ alone can provide peace with God and life everlasting

Therefore as unpopular as our Redeemer has been and continues to be and as unpopular as the gospel message may be to the world,

Let us as God's people set our affections on things above, preach the truth, continuing faithful in season and out of season by calling sinners to repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ alone,

That rebellious man may hear the glorious message of salvation by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone, and be saved to the glory of God alone.