

Acceptance or Rejection

Mark 6:1-12

We see, ... how humble was the rank of life which our Lord condescended to occupy before He began His public ministry. The people of Nazareth said of Him, in contempt, 'Is not this not the carpenter?'

This is a remarkable expression and is only found in the Gospel of Mark. It shows us plainly that for the first thirty years of His life, our Lord was not ashamed to work with His own hands. There is something marvelous and overwhelming in the thought! He who made heaven, and earth, and sea, and all that is therein—He, without whom nothing was made that was made—the Son of God Himself took upon Himself the form of a servant and by the sweat of [his] face He ate bread as a working man. This is indeed that love of Christ which passes knowledge. Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor. Both in life and in death he humbled Himself that through Him sinners might live and reign forever." J.C. Ryle

- I. Jesus' amazement at the unbelief he encountered in his hometown of Nazareth gives us insight into how he sees those who reject the offer of his love, grace, and mercy through the gospel. He was amazed of their judgment of him based on his family and background. He was amazed at how their ears were closed to his words because they believed that what he said was beneath them. He was amazed over how little they valued their souls. And he was amazed at how petty-minded they were for finding whatever excuse they could to justify their unbelief. So, he withheld his grace from a stiff-necked people who held him in contempt.

Mark 6:1-6

John 1:45-46

Joshua 24:14-15

σκάνδαλον *skándalon*, skan'-dal-on; ... thing that offends, stumblingblock.

fig. applied to Jesus Christ, whose person and career were so contrary to the expectations of the Jews concerning the Messiah, that they rejected him and by their obstinacy made shipwreck of their salvation. Strong's G4625

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

- II. The apostles were set free by Jesus to fulfill his will of presenting the gospel without him. The only caveat was that they had to have an absolute dependence on him to provide for them through the hospitality of others. In the Christian life, freedom and trust go hand in hand. In other words, we've been set free to trust in Christ alone, not only for our salvation but also for our every need. It takes work to stay free in Christ, it takes work to trust in him with all our heart, and it takes work to not lean on our own understanding. That is why we are told to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Simple trust in the Lord is an engaging active trust that sets us free from trusting in man.

Mark 6:7-10

Phil. 2:12

Isa. 2:22

"In order to have lasting results, reform and revival require constant renewal and constant courage. It takes work to maintain the correct priorities." Ryken

Isa. 26:4 *Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.*

Phil 4:19 *And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.*

- III. The apostles were given an assignment to preach the gospel to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt. 10:6). They were told that if their message was rejected, they were to leave stamping their feet to show them that they were no better than the gentiles they looked down upon. The apostle's response was unique to the Jew and their rejection of the Messiah. Like with the apostles, we are not responsible for how people respond to us as believers, but we are responsible for how well we represent Christ's love, grace, and mercy before them.

Mark 6:11-12

Phil. 1:27 *Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.*

1 Peter 3:15 *But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,*