

Series: John

Title: Rejectors and Receivers

Text: John 19: 12-16

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John 19: 12: And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. 13: When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha. 14: And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15: But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar. 16: Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led *him* away.

Proposition: The worst thing that can happen to a sinner--be he irreligious or religious--is to pass through this life rejecting Christ. The very best thing that can happen to a sinner is for God to give him grace to receive Christ by faith. I pray God make us receive him even now.

Subject: Rejectors and Receivers

AN IRRELIGIOUS MAN REJECTS CHRIST

John 19: 12: And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar. 13: When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.

What does this mean, "Pilate *sought* to release him?" Remember, what Pilot just boasted to our Lord in verse 10, "Then saith Pilate...knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" Pilot had power to release the Lord Jesus. But he sought the *Jews' consent* to release him. The religious rulers had influence over the multitude of the Jews. They stirred up the people into a mob crying out to crucify the Lord and release Barabbas. So Pilot wants to please the Jewish rulers and thus please the people.

After Pilot tried again to get them to release the Lord, "*the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.*" These Jewish rulers were not friends of Caesars. They despised him and wanted to be free from him. Had Christ promised them an earthly kingdom and deliverance from Caesar then they would have been for the Lord Jesus. They pretend to be zealous for the law and for Caesar for good. But it is only to cover their malice against Christ and his people. So hearing this, Pilot knew they would accuse him to Caesar and Caesar would kill him, as well as the Lord Jesus.

They said, "*thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.*" But it is high treason for a sinful man to make himself a king rather than bow to Christ the King. It is impossible to try to save ourselves by our own works and trust Christ our King to save and lead and protect us. We cannot be Christ's friend, if we attempt to make ourselves the king. We cannot be Christ's faithful subject and be men-pleasers.

Pilot wavered between Christ and these men. But at last Pilot chose to please men rather than God. He chose to be his own judge rather than bow and believe on Christ. "*When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.*" After one more half-hearted attempt verse 16 says, "*Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.*"

Due to this word "pavement", Arthur Pink linked what Pilot did to what king Ahaz did (2 Ki 17-18). In Ahaz' day there was a giant, ornate laver for the priests to wash. It sat on a giant, valuable, ornate base of carved oxen covered in brass. Ahaz cut off that base and some other things for the king of Assyria. Then

he sat the laver on a "pavement" of stones. It was a symbol of apostasy. Ahaz turned from Christ who washes his people (pictured in the laver) and gave himself to the king of Assyria.

Likewise, Pilot sat down in the judgment seat and passing judgment, he rejected Christ. He thus judged himself unworthy of eternal life. Behold in Pilot what is in our sinful nature. We are, by nature, man-pleasers rather than God-pleasers.

We need Christ to save us from ourselves. The preeminent God-pleaser is Christ Jesus who stood there between these two factions silently bearing all of this for God and for his people. Men who please God are sinners who come to Christ confessing their sin, believing on the Son of God as their Lord and their Savior. God-pleasers fall at Christ's feet with broken, contrite, repentant, believing hearts begging mercy. Our salvation beginning to end is by God's mercy. We never stop begging mercy. We never stop repenting and believing on Christ.

Sinner do not reject Christ for this world. Do not let peer pressure and the pressures of this world make you reject Christ as Pilot did. Bow to the Lord as King and continually bow asking mercy from him. When men try to turn you from Christ, believe on Christ and trust him to save you, even trust him to save you from men. By the power of God's saving, keeping grace, God-pleasers stand with Christ and with his people. We send forth the preaching of Christ and him crucified together, trusting Christ, though opposed by men.

1 Thessalonians 2: 4: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

Galatians 1:10: For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

By God's grace, God-pleasers do all things, "Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart." (Eph 6:6).

RELIGIOUS MEN REJECT CHRIST

John 19: 14...he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15: But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

The scribes and Pharisee's rejecting Christ was typified in the elders rejection of Samuel. Samuel was a type of Christ. He was born of a miraculous birth like Christ. Samuel was God's prophet and judge like Christ.

In Samuel's day, Israel had no earthly king because Christ was the King even then. Christ has been the King-Priest of his people from eternity. Remember, Melchizedek

Hebrews 7: 1: king of Salem, priest of the most high God...2:...being by interpretation King of righteousness, and...King of peace; 3: Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

It does not say that God made his Son a king-priest like unto Melchizedek but Melchizedek was made a king-priest like unto the Son of God. Christ is "Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life." The children of Israel had a King. It was the pre-incarnate King, the Lord Jesus. But not having faith, the elders only saw Samuel. They only heard Samuel's word. The heathen nations around them had kings. The appearance of those kings impressed the children of Israel. But there was nothing about Samuel to attract men. So they rejected Samuel and chose for themselves a king. So they came to Samuel,

1 Samuel 8: 5: And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

Samuel was displeased and prayed to the Lord.

1 Samuel 8: 7: And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

Christ, the King, is speaking to Samuel. Their rejection of Samuel typified the Jews rejection of Christ. That is why the scribes and Pharisees rejected, Christ Jesus, the Son of God. He was unimpressive to the carnal eye. His gospel was offensive. He did not promise anything earthly, only spiritual. He would not let them make him a king. And he declared them sinners and told them they would perish unless they believed on him.

The LORD gave Samuel the word to speak to the elders. The Lord told Samuel,

1 Samuel 8: 9...protest solemnly unto them, and shew them the manner of the king that shall reign over them. 10: And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king.

The Lord told them the king he would give them would make them slaves and take, take, take, take from them.

1 Samuel 8: 19: Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; 20: That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles.

The Lord Jesus declared the gospel to the rulers in Judah. But they rejected him for Caesar. They would choose the devil to be their prince and would be his slaves and he would take and take and take from them. But listen to the rulers and how much they sound like the children of Israel who rejected Samuel and chose a wicked king, instead.

John 19: 14...[Pilot] saith unto the Jews, Behold your King! 15: But they cried out, Away with *him*, away with *him*, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.

In Samuel's day, the LORD's word came to pass. Within two years their earthly king usurped authority over the high priest, rejecting God's way of atonement, offering a sacrifice for himself to God. And he made them slaves and took, took, took from the children of Israel.

In the Jews day, the Lord's word came to pass. They rejected Christ for Caesar. He kept them slaves and took, took, took from them. In seventy years, another Caesar wiped Israel off the map, even as Christ said there would not be one stone left upon another.

God teaches a very important lesson. In Samuel's day this is a description of the king the people chose. They looked on the outward appearance. So God gave them a king with this appearance. Saul was a,

1 Samuel 9: 1:...a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

But when God replaced wicked Saul with God's king, David, God chose the one son of Jesse that no man thought looked like a king.

1 Samuel 16:7: But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Some may think this gospel is foolish. There is no form nor comeliness in these servants here. Our gospel is of Christ Jesus and him crucified in whom natural men see no beauty. But do not reject Christ and our gospel like these men rejected Christ. The LORD is not looking at outward appearance. He looks on the heart. God gives his people spiritual understanding within so that we can see things that natural man

cannot comprehend. Then we find Christ altogether lovely and ourselves the sinner; then we need Christ to be our Righteousness and Sanctification.

Do you find our King beautiful or do you despise and reject him? Is this gospel good news or despised by you? May God give you grace to fall out of love with yourself and the carnal things you see and fall in love with Christ and behold him from a believing heart!

THOSE WHO RECEIVE CHRIST BY FAITH

John 19: 14: And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour:

We see in this an illustration of what Christ accomplished and what Christ is to those who receive him by faith. This is not speaking of the passover supper. The Lord had eaten the passover with his disciples the night before. This is the preparation for the feast of passover. It was *the preparation of the Sabbath* which was the next day. This was a Friday. So the Jews had to prepare twice as much food on Friday because the next day was Saturday, the sabbath day when they were to rest. The sixth hour does not mean it was the sixth hour of the day. It means they had been working at this preparation for six hours. They still had not finished making preparations for that day of rest.

But the Lord Jesus hung in darkness on the cross for six hours, three in darkness, and Christ entirely finished the work for his people. He fulfilled the law of God in righteousness and made his people the righteousness of God in him. The self-righteous, self-sanctifying religious men worked for six hours that they might pretend to rest on a day. But in the same day and in less time, Christ our King accomplished our redemption. He is THE SABBATH. He is the one in whom his people rest by faith.

Isaiah 32: 1: Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.

Christ is the King Priest who reigns in righteousness and made his people righteous. He now reigns from glory as our Prophet, Priest and King ministering to us. As our Mediator, Intercessor and Advocate with the Father we receive continual mercy and grace to help in every time of need. Our King makes his people princes who reign in this earth. Therefore, in Christ our Sabbath we find sweet, sweet rest! When you know you are accepted of God and that all your necessities shall be provided in this life then you have rest. When you know that no matter what comes to you in providence, your Savior is ruling it for your good, then you have rest. Christ is our Rest typified in that day of rest.

Run to Christ the King and bow before him and beg for mercy. Do it if you never believed before now and do it if you are the oldest saint there is.

Psalm 136:3: O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Isaiah 33:22: For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.

Revelation 17:14: These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Amen!