

How to Reject Jesus

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John 8:12-29
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The SETTING is at the Feast of Tabernacles.

- At the Feast of Tabernacles – tradition says that candles were lit to commemorate the GLORY CLOUD which led the children of Israel in the Exodus.

Jesus is very CLEAR. John 8:12 – [12] *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

- One of the great I AM statements – is a divine statement harkening back to the divine name of Exodus 3.
 - And JEWS would clearly understand what He meant by “the light.”
 - Psalm 27:1 – [1] *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?*
 - Psalm 36:9 – [9] *in your light do we see light*
 - Isaiah 60:19 – [19c] *but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.*
 - 1 John 1:5 – [5] *This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.*
 - LIGHT refers both to His moral purity and the knowledge that He brings of GOD (enlightenment – light)
 - WORLD - JESUS CAME for the WORLD. Not just to the JEWS
- Whoever follows me – (*akaloutheo*) synonymous with believing in JESUS
 - TRUSTING HIM as LORD and SAVIOR.
 - You will no longer be in darkness (morally or epistemology)

TRAGICLY – THE PHARISEES and JEWS REJECT JESUS. FAITH in CHRIST is the CONTINENTAL DIVIDE between Heaven and Hell. It is the dividing line of eternity.

- John 14:6 – [6] *“I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*
- John says John 3:18 – [18] *Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already.*
- This is what the APOSTLES SAID – ACTS 4:12 – [12] *And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*

So how do these Pharisees reject JESUS when He is right in front of them. They are a *case study* of sorts of “HOW to REJECT JESUS.”

1) Refuse to Listen Intently

8:13 – [13] *So the Pharisees said to him, “You are bearing witness about yourself; your testimony is not true.”*

- They simply DISMISS Him as a lone witness.
- They basically say – You are BOASTING about Yourself.

8:14 – [14] *Jesus answered, “Even if I do bear witness about myself, my testimony is true, for I know where I came from and where I am going, but you do not know where I come from or where I am going.”*

- Experientially – Jesus says, even if I am a lone witness, that does NOT negate my testimony.
- He is saying – You don’t know the NATURE of my EXPERIENCE.

2) Refuse to Judge Rightly

We Must JUDGE the EVIDENCE of JESUS on a SPIRITUAL LEVEL. Not just on a physical LEVEL.

8:15 – [15] *“You judge according to the flesh; I judge no one.”*

- They were JUDGING simply according to what they perceived physically.
- FLESH (sarx).
 - John 6:42 – [42] *“Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? “How does he now say, “I have come down from Heaven.”*
 - John 7:41 – [41] *“is the Christ to come from Galilee?”*
 - John 7:24 – [24] *Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment.*

8:16 – [16] *Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.”*

- If I do judge (and He WILL) because His judgment is coincident with God the Father.
- As the Father sent Him, so He will judge according to the DIVINE WILL.

Jesus goes on the OFFENSIVE. “Let me help you make a right judgment” 8:17 – [17] *“In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.”*

- The LAW that the Pharisees treasured...
 - The testimony of two trustworthy eye-witnesses must be received.
 - Deuteronomy 17:6 – [6] *On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.*

8:18 – [18] *“I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.”*

- I am not the ONLY one who bears witness about MYSELF.
- And the FATHER is a WITNESS to my Divinity.
 - Three Ways the Father is a Witness.
 - 1) The Divine Voice at His baptism
 - 2) The Miracles that He performed
 - 3) Through fulfilled Old Testament prophecy

8:19 – [19] *They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”*

- If you truly knew who I was – then you would know the Father as well.
- John 14:9 – *“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”*
- J. C. Ryle – The grand secret of knowing God is to draw near to Him through Jesus Christ.

8:20 – [20] *These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple; but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come.*

- The TREASURY was in the COURT of Women (13 Collection boxes).
- Jesus is God. That single, profound truth is the dividing line of eternity.
- 2 Corinthians 5:16 – [16] *From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.*
 - Paul describes his own experience.

- Paul believed Jesus was a phony. A False Messiah. He stood by as Stephen was stoned.
- The Christian is someone whose spiritual eyes are open to the truth.
- They JUDGE the WORLD on a SPIRITUAL level.
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 – [18] *we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

3) Refuse to Respond Appropriately

There are WINDOWS that are given in which to respond to JESUS. The unbeliever refuses to respond appropriately.

8:21 – [21] *So he said to them again, “I am going away, and you will seek me, and you will die in your sin. Where I am going, you cannot come.”*

- Jesus says, I am going away – in reference to his ascension.
- And there will come a POINT in your LIFE... perhaps on your DEATH BEDS... and you are NOT right with GOD...
- But it will be too late.
- Proverbs 1:28, 29 – [28] *Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.* [29] *Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD.*

8:22 – [22] *So the Jews said, “Will he kill himself, since he says, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come?’”*

- The JEWS say, he must mean that He is going to KILL HIMSELF – and that he is going to HELL – because he says “I’m going where you cannot come.”

8:23 – [23] *He said to them, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

- The OPPOSITE is true. You are from below – You belong to Hell. You belong to this evil WORLD.
- John 8:44 – [44] *You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires.*

HERE JESUS is right in from of them. WHAT a MOMENT. And they fail to respond to HIM appropriately.

- There is a MOMENT of DECISION. What do you do in that MOMENT?
- Do you STEP IN... or do you TURN your BACK.
 - Jonathan Edwards – “Pressing into the kingdom of heaven denotes earnestness and firmness of resolution. There should be strength of resolution, accompanying strength of desire, as it was in the psalmist, in the place just now referred to: “one thing have I desired, and that will I seek after.””

4) Refuse to Believe Accordingly

8:24 – [24] *“I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”*

- This is the ONE CONDITION. You MUST believe that JESUS is GOD.
- The REVELATION of GOD.
 - Unless you believe this, you will DIE in your sins.
 - Unless you BELIEVE that He is GOD, you will go to HELL unforgiven.

8:25 – [25] *So they said to him, “Who are you?”*

- Who are you? – In the sense of “who are you to make such a claim.”
- William Hendriksen – “You, who are you?”

Jesus said to them, “Just what I have been telling you from the beginning.

- Jesus has been telling them who he is. Where he came from. That His father is a witness.
- You are NOT even listening... This is what I have been seeing since the BEGINNING of the DIALOGUE.

8:26 – [26] *I have much to say and judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him.”*

- Jesus is on a DIVINE MISSION.
- To declare to the WORLD – what He has heard from the FATHER.
- In every single thing that JESUS said, the mind and heart of God was expressed.

John says. 8:27 – [27] *They did not understand that he had been speaking to them about the Father.*

- They haven’t listened. They refuse to listen.
- And thus in FAILING to BELIEVE they will “die in their sins.”
- Jesus said John 5:44 – [44] *How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?*

5) Refuse to Acknowledge Publicly

8:28 – [28] *So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.”*

- When I am LIFTED up... you will KNOW that what I said is true.
- John 12:32 – [32] *And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.*
- When this event happens – they would KNOW that he was the CHRIST.
- HOW WOULD they know?
 - 1) They will remember that HE PREDICTED IT.
 - 2) They will see the COSMIC SIGNS.
 - 3) Three days later, he was raised from the DEAD.
- They realized that JESUS was the SON of GOD.

8:29 – [29] *And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him*

- Jesus did His WORKS publicly.
- And they were found to be PLEASING to GOD.