

Series: John

Title: Salvation in Rejection

Text: John 6: 15

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John 6: 14: Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. 15: When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

After our Lord Jesus performed this great miracle, those who saw what he had done said, *“This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.”*

Deuteronomy 18:15: The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

The natural children of Israel knew this scripture. They were looking for that prophet. When they were fed the loaves they even called him Messiah. But they had no spiritual understanding. The Pharisee’s sent to John the Baptist, “Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No” (Jn 1: 21). The Samaritan woman even knew Christ would be that Prophet, “The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet...The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things” (Jn 4: 19, 25). Later in John 7 many disputed with each other over whether the Lord Jesus was that prophet or the Christ and disagreed where he was born.

Subject: Salvation in Rejection

Proposition: In our Lord rejecting this multitude we behold the faithfulness of our King by whom all his people are saved.

Divisions: 1) Christ’s faithfulness concerning temptation 2) Christ’s covenant 3) Christ’s priesthood 4) Christ salvation of his people

FAITHFULNESS IN TEMPTATION

This great multitude desired to take him by force and make him king but our Lord refused. The devil had already tempted him this way once in the wilderness.

Matthew 4: 8 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; [in a moment] 9: And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10: Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11: Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.

The devil’s temptation was for our Savior to worship him rather than worship and obey God the Father. But the only power the devil had was temporary by the sovereign will of God. It was only due to the fall of Adam and the whole human race in him. The fall was of God that Adam might typify the last Adam who redeemed his and crushed the devil’s head. So it was God who cast the devil out of heaven. The devil was doing God’s bidding. God rules the devil. So the devil tempted our Lord Jesus in the wilderness trying to get our Savior to bow and worship him. But we see the perfect faithfulness of King Jesus declaring, *“it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”*

We see the devil’s temptation again in this great multitude desiring to make Christ the King. But our Savior rejected because he is faithful to the Father as the representative of his people. He said in another place “I must be about My Father’s business.” He is absolute perfect submission to the will of God. This is the faithfulness by which Christ established his kingdom and saved his people from our sins.

Brethren, it is only by the faithfulness of Christ our King in whom we have perfectly resisted all temptation and been perfectly obedient to the Father. How often we fail when tempted. Think what a temptation this was for the apostles. This was 20,000-30,000 people wanting to make Christ King. They were part of his

inner circle. They, too, were looking for a temporal kingdom. How tempting would that be? When his messenger is tempted by promotion by bigger, by an easier life, by some past glory who keeps Christ's messengers faithful? It is Christ our faithful King. When the world would tempt us away from the gospel for prosperity, it is our faithful King who keep us or we utterly fail. For us to merely think about the temptation is covetousness. Yet in the faithfulness of Christ our King we have perfectly resisted all temptation and been obedient to the Father and our sins have been purged forever. We are to resist the devil, resist the lust of our flesh, resist the temptations of the world. But we are no match for the trial, the test, the temptation except Christ keeps us. This is why Christ taught us to pray,

Matthew 6:13: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

FAITHFULNESS IN THE EVERLASTING COVENANT

In rejecting this multitude we see Christ's faithfulness to the everlasting covenant of grace. Before the world was made, in the everlasting covenant of redemption, God the Father decreed his Son would be king and his elect would be his servants in his kingdom. This covenant Christ entered into to fulfill for God his Father and his people. This is the covenant he makes with us ordered and sure in all things. Psalm 89 speaks of God the Father's covenant to Christ our King typified in God's covenant to David the king.

Psalm 89: 1: I will sing of the mercies of the LORD for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. 2: For I have said, Mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. 3: I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, 4: Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations. Selah. 5: And the heavens shall praise thy wonders, O LORD: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints...29: His seed also [his elect, us] will I make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven...[if his children sin he will chasten us as a Father in love not in anger. Why not in anger? Because the stroke of justice fell on Christ]...33: Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. 34 My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.35: Once I have sworn by my holiness that I will not lie to David.

Do you see in the one verse of our text how our Lord's rejection of this multitude is because our King would fulfill his covenant and save us by his everlasting mercy! There is a lot in this one verse, rejecting this multitude.

FAITHFULNESS AS THE HIGH PRIEST

By rejecting this multitude we see Christ's faithfulness as the High Priest of his people. Christ had a high priestly work to accomplish for his people before being consecrated publicly as our King. Christ would not ascend to the throne in heaven as King until he accomplished the work of his Father sent him to finish as High Priest of his elect people. He came to honor God's law—to redeem his people—as the Lamb in place of his people. It was as High Priest that he entered the holiest of holies in heaven with his own blood.

Hebrews 2:17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

In our text, Christ sent the multitude away, sent his disciples across the sea then he went up into the mountain alone. It foreshadowed his high priestly work which must be accomplished alone.

Leviticus 16: 17: And there shall be no man in the tabernacle of the congregation when he goeth in to make an atonement in the holy *place*, until he come out, and have made an atonement for himself, and for his household, and for all the congregation of Israel.

So he fulfilled the shadow by himself and now where is he? "When he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Heb 1: 3).

Hebrews 8: 1:...We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Hebrews 1: 8 But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

He has made us king-priests by the perfect righteousness of Christ our King-Priest.

FAITHFULNESS IN DISTINGUISHING GRACE

We see Christ's faithfulness in that he rejected this multitude while calling sinners like us who were no different from them in our flesh. By nature, we were like this multitude.

They called him the prophet, the Messiah. Many regard our Lord as a prophet, a wonderful teacher like Buddha or Mohammed. They teach his precepts but despise that he alone is the righteousness and holiness of his people. Those Christ calls to faith were no different while dead in sins.

The multitude was looking for a leader for this life, a king to lead a revolt against the Romans they hated. It is the same as what this world is fighting for today: earthly deliverance, earthly ease, by an earthly king in an earthly kingdom. Those Christ calls were no different in our spiritually dead sin-nature.

They would have received him as long as they made him king by force. What a boast, "I made Christ Lord of my life!" But we cannot make him King. He was born King. They came to him at his birth and said,

Matthew 2: 2...Where is he that is born King of the Jews?

This is the sin-nature in every fallen sinner. It is the sin-nature in every one born of the Spirit of God now. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, that which is born of the Spirit is spirit", Christ said. We wanted to take Christ by force and put him on the throne for selfish gain or take him out of the throne and put ourselves in it. That is the fallen sin-nature in all men.

But our King is God-all-knowing. "*When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force to make him a king...*" He knows every heart then and now.

John 2:24-25: But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.

What made the difference between those Christ calls and those he rejects? His grace alone! He knows his sheep who the Father chose by free grace. The Spirit sovereignly calls his sheep and makes us know him. Our King Priest makes his child see we are sinners who can do nothing to save ourselves. He rejected them and left them to their depraved will. But Christ calls his sheep making us know that he alone makes the difference. He brings us to cry for mercy at his feet and never stops doing so. This same multitude who wanted to make him a king will later cry, "Crucify him! Crucify him!" Only the grace of God chose, redeemed, regenerates and calls his people to faith in Christ. Grace alone makes the difference in sinners.

Christ makes us know his kingdom is spiritual, his salvation eternal, not of this earth.

John 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

The kingdom of God is *within* you who born of the Spirit of our King. Christ in you is the King in you. The kingdom is within his people. His people are the kingdom. That is how he makes us know that he is the King. He wields his scepter of righteousness in our hearts! That how he makes us believe he is the Priest and the Lamb in whom we are complete.

He makes us know he is our King because he rules this world and our lives for the sake of his people. Our King chastens us to bring us to see his faithfulness to keep us partaking of his holiness and not trusting in

anything of our own so that we be not judged with this sinful world. He uses us through this gospel to call out all our fellow citizens into his kingdom robed in his righteousness alone through faith in him.

Psalm 110: 1: «A Psalm of David.» The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. 2: The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. 3: Thy people *shall be* willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. 4: The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Psalm 72: 11: Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him. 12: For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and *him* that hath no helper. 13: He shall spare the poor and needy and shall save the souls of the needy.

What about the enemy?

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.

Brethren, he made us “a royal priesthood” to show forth his praises. Let us be thankful for his chastening hand—“*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore and repent.*” He saves us from our “*fleshly lusts that war against the soul*”, cleanses us to keep us walking in the good works he has ordained. So while this world rebels against authority let us submit to magistrates God has put in power because our King rules them all and shall make us overcome. He promises,

Revelation 3:21: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Amen!