

4 REJECTED BY HIS OWN

05/10/15

INTRODUCTION / REVIEW

We are in the book of John. Last week we focused on the word “witness.” We learned that Jesus had 8 witnesses to testify that He came in the flesh and rose from the dead. Then we learned that we also have a witness which must be humble, must focus on Jesus and must not try to create moral people. Our calling is to introduce people to Jesus so they will not be only outwardly moral but miraculously transformed.

Today we are going to look at verses 9-11 which tells us Jesus Christ the creator of heaven and earth was unknown by the non-religious world and rejection of His own people.

READING THE TEXT

John 1:9-11

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

PREACHING THE TEXT

John 1:9-11

9 The true light, which ‘gives light to’ (**enlightens**) everyone, was coming into the world.

TRUE LIGHT

In this world there is one authentic “light.” The authentic light does the job of a true light bearer. This light bearer came to bear light on our soul and expose the darkness. Jesus Christ brings the light so we can understand the real condition of our soul. How can you see anything when you are in darkness.

GIVES LIGHT TO (Enlightens) EVERYONE

This text tells us Jesus Christ brings light or enlightenment to everyone. What does John mean by this? If Jesus gives *inner light* to everyone that means the coming of Jesus saves every single soul. We know that is not true because Jesus said the path is wide and the gate is narrow. In addition the verse next verse says the world did not accept Him. And it is pretty obvious that every single person is not enlightened inwardly.

So this passage must speak of an *outward enlightenment* that Jesus Christ brings to everyone. The way, the Truth and The Light came into the world. He is more brilliant than the sun as He shines truth into our lives. And those who love the darkness hate Him because He shines the light on their pride and sin.

THEME WORD = **WORLD**

We have been noticing various theme-words used in John's introduction which goes from verses 1-18. John introduces theme words and then expounds on those theme words in the rest of this book. So far we have seen the theme words; The Word, Life, light, darkness, and witness. The theme word of today's passage is **The World**.

The "world" in this passage is a reference to all the people in the world. When **John 3:16** says, "**For God so loved the world...**" John does not refer to His love for the planet but instead it speaks to the love of Jesus for the people on the planet.

Here is another thing that we do not want to miss. The Jewish people thought of themselves as God's special people. They thought of non-Jewish people as dogs and many referred to them with swear words. Anyone not Jewish was thought of as people rejected and hated by God. But when God so loved the world, He gave His only Son for the people of the world, and this includes non-Jews.

Samaritans were people that were part Jewish and part Gentile. When two previous kings conquered Israel they purposely intermarried Jewish women with non Jewish men. The goal was to get rid of the pure blood line of Jewish people and steal their fierce loyalty to their own country.

So once Israel was partially restored and the temple rebuilt these mixed breed people were absolutely hated. They were a reminder of defeat and humiliation. In fact Jewish religious leaders passed rules that no one could speak with or share a meal with anyone that does not have a pure Jewish bloodline and who is circumcised.

So one day when the disciples of Jesus saw Him speaking to a “half-breed” Samaritan woman at the well they were shocked. They imagined Jesus was the Messiah only the Jewish people who received Him. Jesus did not come only for people with a pure Jewish bloodline. After speaking to Jesus a village of samaritans....

John 4:42 (ESV)

⁴² ... said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU?

The implications are astounding. Uneducated people who felt like they could never measure up to the religious Jews....they knew that Jesus Christ came into the world for them too.

If you are poor, Jesus came into the world for you. If you are an addict Jesus came into the world to shine His brilliant light on your circumstances and set you free.

If you are rich or self sufficient and feel like you have to be perfect and earn God’s love, know that Jesus came into the world for you...and you can stop striving and trying to earn by works that which Jesus Christ came to deliver as a gift.

Nicodemus was a well to do scholar. He was one of the elite scholars of Israel. Yet for all of his learning and intelligence, Jesus had to come into the world to shine the light of truth on his heart. He told Nicodemus in

John 3:3 that unless he was born again he could not see the kingdom of God.

Rich, poor, popular or humiliated and ashamed, every single person must be born again in order to go to heaven. Even Nicodemus, who would be like a well thought of priest.

If God is moving in your heart and causing you to come alive cooperate with what the Spirit is doing and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Turn your life over to Him and cooperate with Him as He takes control of your life. He knows what you need.

CHRIST UNKNOWN

The greatest thing to ever happen was the coming of Jesus Christ to bring the light of salvation to the whole world. But conversely one of the greatest tragedies is described in verse 10.

¹⁰ ***He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.***

THE WORLD

The world refers to people who are living in darkness and who desperately need ***the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ*** that is spoken of in ***2 Cor 4:6***.

This passage speaks of the entrance of Jesus Christ into the world that He created.

THE GRAND ENTRANCE

Before He added a human body and nature to himself The Son was outside of time and space and matter. But now he chose to come into the world and be subject through His body and soul to time, space and matter.

He was in the world that He created. He spoke this world into existence in Genesis 1 and here he was, in the world in a form that every person could speak to and relate to. This is the greatest humbling of all time.

Nebuchadnezzar ruled the world one moment and ate grass like an animal the next. But that is nothing compared to the humbling of Jesus Christ. He was above time, space and matter. He was ageless. All powerful. The angels had to cover their faces before Him.

But now here he is born as a baby into a family of construction workers. If he was born in our day his language would be nails, screws, blisters, trusses, gable ends, insulation, screw guns and shingles. Im sure he would love a trip to Menards.

From above time, space and matter and blinding glory to construction worker. He came into the world He created. He penetrated time, space and matter in order to live in this world that He created. It would be like us somehow transforming into an ant and living an ant colony only multiply that humbling times billions.

He was much more than a contractor. He could set blocks and foundation stones. But He also built the foundations of the world and the universe by simply speaking it into existence. How can this great of a creator come into a family of contractors. How can one who build the universe without a drop of sweat now break out in blisters and buckets of sweat as he labored alongside His human father and His brothers? What an incredible entrance into the world that He created.

Why did Jesus Christ humble Himself in such a drastic manner? Why did He subject Himself to all the toils and struggles that we all share? He did this so that he could represent us on the cross when He died for our sin. And He also did this in order to be the perfect high priest who could truly understand people and be approachable just as He is all glorious and shares the Divine nature and is the creator of heaven and earth. He knows God because he is God. He knows people because He is a person. He is 100 percent God and 100 percent man in one person. He is the perfect one to help us make peace with God. Most of all he came bring glory to Himself and His Father. This humbling was the means of glory.

Jesus came into the world for all people living in darkness. Yet the amazing thing is that many people do not understand that Jesus came as their savior. So they hide from Him and don't recognize what He offers.

Jesus came for the whole world but He was born into a Jewish family. He was a direct descendant of King David. He fulfilled the prophecies and bloodlines so that he was eligible to rule Israel as it's king. Verse 11 tells us....

¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Exodus 19:5 calls Israel God's own people. God said of Israel; ***"You shall be my treasured possession among all people."*** Surely Israel would receive The Jewish Messiah who came and preached the truth of the kingdom. He healed the sick and lame. He even raised the dead. He spoke to the wind and waves and even they obeyed Him. He displayed all the evidence that He was the Jewish Messiah. But even His own beloved people rejected Him. They did not receive Him.

Shortly before His arrest, Jesus told a parable that explained another reason why Israel did not receive God's Son: the people's spiritual pride and rebellion.

Matthew 21:33-39 (ESV)

³³ "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. ³⁴ When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. ³⁵ And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. ³⁷ Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' ³⁹ And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

John 1:10 told us why irreligious Samaritans rejected Jesus Christ and why non-religious people do to this day; they love darkness more than light. They are depraved and have grown accustomed to the darkness.

But this parable tells us why religious and even moral people reject Jesus Christ. They want to keep His glory for themselves. They do not want to trust and worship a

Messiah - they want to be their own Messiah. They want to glory in their own self righteousness. They want others to recognize how holy and generous how upstanding they are in the community.

They want to be worshipped and adored and honored and venerated. Those who suffer from religious pride curse the darkness of the world and then point to themselves as the standard. "I would never wear that." "I would never kill or steal." "I worked really hard to deserve respect." So for them to receive Jesus Christ in humility goes against all the accolades and spiritual pride that is their fuel and reason for existence.

Spiritual pride is more deadly than almost any sin. You talk to someone who is an addict or who lived like hell on earth. They know their great sin and great need. Many only need to be convinced that Jesus Christ paid enough for their sin. And they need to power of God to come into their life so that they love Jesus more than their addiction. But those who are fueled by religious pride have to submit to Jesus and admit their great sin of stealing His glory.

Thank God that Jesus Christ paid enough for your sin. Whether it is spiritual pride or the sins of the flesh, Jesus Christ took on the wrath of God for your sin. He paid enough so that you can humble yourself and receive salvation in humility just like it was delivered upon the cross, in humility.

TAKING IT HOME

1. Do you suffer from religious pride? Do you have a hard time admitting your failures and find yourself wanting to prove to yourself and other that you are worthy?
2. If so, will you admit today that self righteousness and religious pride is a means of stealing glory from Jesus Christ?
3. Do you suffer from shame because of your addictions and temptations that continue to draw you into darkness and sin?
4. If so, will you get real with Jesus and with others knowing that above all, Jesus Christ paid enough for your sin on the cross? You do not have to straighten up.

Your call is the repent, renounced and receive the free gift of forgiveness and the gift of His righteousness. Ask Him to change your desires. He will give you righteous desires as a gift that magnifies His amazing glory and grace.