

REJECTION OF JESUS

Jesus faced rejection from all - in order to bring about our salvation:

1 Peter ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone—**rejected by men** but chosen by God and precious to him— ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.

But to those who do not believe,
**“The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone,”**

1) *His family*

Jesus brothers saw His ministry as an attempt to gain publicity:

John 7 ¹ After this, Jesus went around in Galilee, purposely staying away from Judea because the Jews there were waiting to take his life. ² But when the Jewish Feast of Tabernacles was near, ³ Jesus’ brothers said to him, “You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so that your disciples may see the miracles you do. ⁴ No one who wants to become a public figure acts in secret. Since you are doing these things, show yourself to the world.” ⁵ **For even his own brothers did not believe in him.**

Mark 3 ²⁰ Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. ²¹ When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, **“He is out of his mind.”**

2) *His home-town*

Jesus was rejected at Nazareth:

Luke 4 ¹⁴ Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and

on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 **“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”**

20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, **“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. **“Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”** they asked.

23 Jesus said to them, **“Surely you will quote this proverb to me: ‘Physician, heal yourself! Do here in your hometown what we have heard that you did in Capernaum.’”**

24 **“I tell you the truth,”** he continued, **“no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah’s time, when the sky was shut for three and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. 27 And there were many in Israel with leprosy in the time of Elisha the prophet, yet not one of them was cleansed—only Naaman the Syrian.”**

28 All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. 29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him down the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

Matthew 13 53 When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. **“Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?”** they asked. 55 **“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?”** 57 **And they took offense at him.**

But Jesus said to them, **“Only in his hometown and in his own house is a prophet without honor.”**

58 **And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.**

3) His friend

John 13 18 **“I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: ‘He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.’**

The scripture Jesus quoted was from Psalms:

Psalm 41 ⁹ Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

Luke 22 ⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, ⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Matthew 26 ⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” ⁴⁹ Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.” Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

4) Religious leaders

Mark 8 ³¹ He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

John 7 ⁴⁵ Finally the temple guards went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who asked them, “Why didn’t you bring him in?” ⁴⁶ “No one ever spoke the way this man does,” the guards declared. ⁴⁷ “You mean he has deceived you also?” the Pharisees retorted. ⁴⁸ “**Has any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed in him?**” ⁴⁹ No! But this mob that knows nothing of the law—there is a curse on them.”

Matthew 21 ³³ “Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and went away on a journey. ³⁴ When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit. ³⁵ “The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶ Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷ Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. ³⁸ “But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰ “Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

41 “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: **”“The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone ; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’ ?**

43 **”Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”**

45 **When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ parables, they knew he was talking about them.** 46 They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Acts 4 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11 He is

”“the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone. ’

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”

5) His people – the Jews

John 19 “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. 15 But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

John 1 11 **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.** 12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

Matthew 23 37 **”O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. 38 Look, your house is left to you desolate. 39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”**

6) *The world*

John 1 ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

John 15 ¹⁸ **“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.** ¹⁹ If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. ²⁰ Remember the words I spoke to you: ‘No servant is greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also. ²¹ They will treat you this way because of my name, for they do not know the One who sent me. ²² If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now, however, they have no excuse for their sin. ²³ He who hates me hates my Father as well. ²⁴ If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and **yet they have hated both me and my Father.** ²⁵ But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: **‘They hated me without reason.’**

7) *His Father*

On the cross even the Father rejected him, as the sin of the world was laid on him:

Matthew 27 ⁴⁵ From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?”*—which means, **“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”**