

The king and the problem of Rejection

Two readings NIV and 'The Message'

Intro: coming up to Easter to meditate upon all it means to us believers, this idea of rejection. Rejection in popular culture, Pop Idol, the apprentice, this has made rejection easy and without feeling. Also, the procedure of calling a Baptist Minister to a church the rejection that can happen on both sides.

Jesus would suffer rejection, at Nazareth, the disciples (Peter's denial), the palm Sunday crowd, God when Jesus on the cross (what is our understanding of the cross?)

Our Passage

There is a temptation to think this reflects how Christians will be rejected by the world, but what is the Bible actually saying. This passage comes after the parables (kingdom of heaven) and before the be-heading of John the Baptist. Re-call who this gospel was written for, yes us , but is often thought to be aimed at a particular audience.

The amazement

The way Jesus spoke and taught them caused amazement. Many preachers would like to have that effect on their congregations. Can we remember when we were last amazed at the teaching we received, do we still want to be amazed at the word of God. There does need to an expectation that God will speak to us and speak into our lives.

The question

'Where did this man get his wisdom and these miraculous power from?' Easter reminding us of the nature of Jesus, Son of man and Son of God. Jesus born of a mother and had a family and it is here that we get mention of Jesus's family. Some may have become his followers. However, this reminds us of the divine nature of Jesus, more than just a good teacher, that we get amazed at but bringing in the kingdom of heaven, bringing salvation for all who believe in Him. We can't always explain all the difficulties of being both Son of man and of God, we can fathom out all the explanations but our faith as we go towards Easter is the at Jesus is Divine.

The rejection

They took offence, noses out of joint. How many meetings at work, in families, or even church meetings have we taken offence, reject what has been said or happened. Difficulties for church leadership as so much of our personal feelings are involved in our church life.

Why did they mention that Jesus was the son of a carpenter? Is there something of a carpenter being too low class to produce a prophet. Some snobbery. Here mention is made of Joseph's job/profession and yet do we make too much of it, because how often is it mentioned in the Bible?

The people only saw the human side of Jesus, perhaps knew him too well or offended because he was one of their own.

The response

Jesus still stayed, spoke to people and did some miracles. He did not run away but continued to fulfil his ministry. Jesus referred to the history of the prophets but looked forward. The kingdom of heaven

Conclusion

Jesus was to experience rejection on a level we cannot fully understand, family, friends, heavenly father, all this leading up to the cross. Spiritual rejection and personal rejection. How we do deal with rejection; - Jesus did not take it personally, he didn't let it enter his inner being. Need to look after our own spiritual well-being.

Take it to the foot of the cross, to bring the peace, love of Christ into the situation. Forgive the rejection time and time again.

Knowing Jesus as Lord and Saviour and having Him in your life.

Questions:

What have we made of the idea of Jesus as the son of Joseph the Carpenter?

Do we believe that God rejected Jesus on the cross?

Are their examples of rejection we can refer to too help us?

Find examples of rejection in the Old Testament.

How can we best prepare for Easter so that all the rushing about does not deflect from the festival?

The cross also brings reconciliation, what is our understanding of this?

What stops us forgiving others?