

GOSPEL OF JOHN
JESUS DEALING WITH REJECTION
JOHN 6:66-71; 7:1-13

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Introduction

Have you ever had to face rejection from those you've shared the truth with? It is that very reason why many Believers do not share the truth with others!

We fear being rejected and possibly ridiculed. Understand however, that **Jesus faced both rejection and ridicule on multiple fronts for the full duration of His public ministry!**

1 Peter 2:21-23 21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

In our Scripture today we see Jesus dealing with rejection on several fronts and that's what the message is: **JESUS DEALING WITH REJECTION**

READ JOHN 6:66-71; 7:1-13

I. WE SEE THE REJECTION OF JESUS BY MANY WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIM! (JOHN 6:66-69)

We saw last time what Jesus told this group that we see in John 6.

He explained to them that He was the Bread of Life that came down from Heaven! We know that at least some of them misunderstood what Jesus was saying. They got tangled up in Jesus metaphor of eating His flesh and drinking his blood.

(Vs 52)

And apparently, Jesus' further explanation of what He was talking about fell on deaf ears as well! *(Vs 60)*

And the fallout of this is what we see in our text! Many of His former "so called" disciples left Him! In fact, *John 6:67* leads us to believe that of those he spoke to, only the original twelve disciples remained and one of them is a devil! (Jesus' words...not mine!)

Now imagine if you can, how that must have grieved our Lord in His spirit. These folks who had once followed Jesus about and listened to Him got upset at this one message! They just walked away from Jesus and did not want to have anymore to do with Him!

They rejected Jesus and what He was teaching and they rejected the twelve disciples that were close to Him and stayed with Him because they perceived them as having embraced Jesus!

Today, when people reject Jesus, they usually don't want anything to do with Believers! We need to know and understand that it has to do with **JESUS IN US** and our identification with **HIM** that they don't want anything to do with!

It's difficult to handle enough when just one or two folks say they don't want to be in fellowship with you any longer! I know, because I've personally experienced that in the ministry too many times!

But listen, **Jesus experienced rejection on a wide-scale basis...*John 6:66* says "From that time MANY of His disciples went back, and walked no more with him."** Jesus had to be grieved in His spirit over this even though with Him being God in the flesh, He knew it was coming! Just like He knew the rejection would grow all the way up to the Cross of Calvary that He knew was eventually coming.

Jesus didn't do anything wrong here. He simply had spoken the **truth**. Those multitudes that left Him, left **HIM**, He didn't leave them. But make no mistake to reject Jesus' message is to reject **HIM!**

Today there are a lot of folks who don't understand that when they reject the Word of God, they are rejecting Jesus Himself!

It wasn't someone else in the Jesus' group that had offended them. What Jesus had said did! They had flat out rejected the truth! So keep that in mind... that's what I mean when I say it had to be weighing on Jesus in His humanity! But listen, Jesus didn't quit! He continued!

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WE SEE THE REJECTION OF JESUS BY MANY WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIM!

II. WE SEE THE REJECTION OF JESUS BY HIS OWN PEOPLE, THE JEWS! (Vs 1) “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him.”

Truly the words of John recorded in *John 1:11* can be seen here:
John 1:11 “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.”

So get this...At this point Jesus is now limiting Himself to the region of Galilee, because the Jews wanted Him dead—the Jews being the Jewish leadership especially as well as those influenced by them!

Stop and think about this for a minute. **Have you ever had someone hate you so much that they wanted to see you DEAD? Jesus did! And we are talking about more than these Jews just WISHING He was dead!**

The Jews that are spoken about here wanted Jesus dead so much that they were both ACTIVELY and CONSTANTLY planning His demise! What we see among the Jewish leaders is a CONSPIRACY to commit murder where they eventually resorted to bribing Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus into their hands. (6:70-71)

There was a great and growing hatred of Jesus by these Jewish leaders almost from the very beginning of His ministry when He spoke in the synagogue at His hometown in Nazareth!

Luke 4:28-29 28 *And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,* 29 *And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong.*

We saw it earlier when Jesus healed the impotent man on the Sabbath!
John 5:16 ***And therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus, and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day.***

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Later in this chapter we will see that Jesus called some of these Jews out over this! And of course they denied trying to kill Him and even accused Him of being demon possessed! (*John 7:19-20*)

And the fact that the Jewish leadership wanted Jesus dead was not something that was a secret! (*John 7:25*)

Now understand that it is not JUST the Pharisees and Sadducees that wanted Jesus out of the picture... there were many others of the people of Judah who wanted Him gone too because of they had been influenced by the Jewish leaders!

How did Jesus respond to this rejection? He kept ministering until He had fulfilled the His Heavenly Father’s will!

So, WE SEE THE REJECTION OF JESUS BY MANY WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY FOLLOWED HIM...BY HIS OWN PEOPLE, THE JEWS!

III. WE SEE THE REJECTION OF JESUS BY HIS FAMILY!

Understand the timing here of what we see taking place in John 7. John 6:5 tells us that the feeding of the 5000+ was at about the time of the *Feast of Passover*. *John 7:2* tells us that the events of *chapter 7* were about **six months later** at the time of the *Feast of Tabernacles*.

The point of *John 7:1-2* is that Jesus had to stay up in Galilee for about six months after the multitudes had left Him. But now it’s that time of year when the Jews would go to Jerusalem and celebrate the *Feast of Tabernacles* also known as the *Feast of Booths*.

The *Feast of Tabernacles* was a **seven-day festival that was a celebration and remembrance of God’s provision while the Israelites were in the wilderness during Moses time!**

It coincided with the vine harvest and so it basically was a holiday festival where they were to remember how God had provided for their forefathers with food, water, and shelter in the wilderness journeys.

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So it was kind of a big deal if you wanted to be a faithful Jew.
And Jesus was a faithful Jew!

So, Jesus was in Galilee because the Jewish leaders and now many of the people in Judah wanted to kill Him.

The *Feast of Tabernacles* was about to kick off, and now His own brothers came up to Him basically chide Him in **verses 3 and 4**.

There is possibly no rejection that hurts as much a rejection by family!

It's a great burden to us as Believers knowing that there are people we know and love and care about who are not themselves Believers in Christ. This is especially true for those who are our family members!

There can be Believing husbands with unbelieving wives...

There can be Believing wives with unbelieving husbands...

There are parents who are Believers whose children are not saved...

There are children who are Believers whose parents are lost...

There are grandparents who are Believers whose grandchildren are lost

There are grandchildren whose grandparents are lost...

There are possibly other relatives—aunts, uncles, cousins, etc.

I would chance to say that most of us know someone close to us who is far from God and who... if they were to die right now, would spend eternity in the lake of fire. And that is a troubling thought (at least it should be) for all of us who are Believers!

Well the text here in **John 7** speaks somewhat to this. **We find that Jesus Himself, had half-siblings who were not believers before His death, burial, and resurrection. And, just like many of us have had to do, Jesus had to deal with their sarcasm and unbelief!**

As we look at this today, **let's take comfort from knowing that our Savior knows what we are going through with those who are close to us, but unbelievers.**

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I trust that maybe it can give us hope that our lost family members (and our lost friends and others who are close to us), can be saved, and that their lives can be changed by the power of Christ.

There's always hope as long as the people we love are still breathing! Don't give up praying for them! Don't give up hope!

Understand that the Scripture is clear that Mary and Joseph had other children than just Jesus. Jesus had half-siblings—both half-brothers and half-sisters because Joseph wasn't Jesus' biological father:

Matthew 12:46 "While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and **his brethren** stood without, desiring to speak with him."

Mark 6:3 "Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of **James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon?** and are not his sisters here with us?"

Those that teach and preach that Mary stayed a perpetual virgin did not get that from Scripture!

Now it is Jesus' brothers who were speaking to Jesus here in **vs. 3-4**. They were basically saying to Him, "*Listen Jesus, if you want to be recognized as the Messiah, sooner or later You're going to have to go to Jerusalem, and prove Your claim.*"

And the thing is – **they were saying that, NOT to encourage Him...Nor was it because they believed Him to be the Messiah...** because the very next verse – **verse 5** tells us, that they did not believe!

So them saying this is actually really messed up. **It is as if they were hoping for Jesus to embarrass Himself and shut up or that the Scribes and Pharisees and others that hated Jesus might kill Him as their desire was to do! Now understand that they were speaking from an unbelieving heart!** This actually was prophesied in the O.T.

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Psalm 69:8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.

So, Jesus' brothers were being sarcastic and condescending! They probably thought that Jesus was full of Himself and they just wanted Him to shut up... even if it meant that He might be thrown in jail, punished, or maybe even killed! **And the thing is, Jesus knew what was in their hearts!**

If you have ever had family members that had a problem with your faith in Christ and railed on you either directly or indirectly, you might can understand a little bit of what Jesus was going through here! It had to grieve Him!

Hebrews 4:15-16 "15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

So, Jesus answers them with what we see in *verse 6-8*.

He was saying, *"It is not the time for me to go just yet, but ya'll can go anytime you want to because I'm the one that is being hated by the world, not you."*

Jesus didn't want to go up at the same time as His brethren because those who were looking to kill Him would have an easier time identifying Him. **Jesus knew that the time for Him to die had not come yet!** It wouldn't be until the following Passover!

In *verse 7*, when Jesus was talking about **"The world"** (that's *the world system... humanity in its opposition to God – the Anti-Christian society, culture, philosophies, world views... all of that is contrary and hostile towards God, and Christ, and the Bible, and the truth*).

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**The world hates Jesus because He testifies that it's works are evil!
The world hates us as Believers because Jesus in us does the same!**

When we as Believers take a stand for truth... when we take a stand for what's right, and good, and moral... when we take a stand against evil. The world is going to hate us!

And sometimes, if our family, or our friends, or our acquaintances are of the world; they're going to hate us too! **But listen, what they are really hating is Jesus in and on our life!**

The reason the world didn't hate Jesus' brothers at this time was because they were part of the world. **And they, along with the rest of the world, hated Jesus, because He exposed their sin!**

Now Jesus did go up to the feast eventually. And there are some opponents of Jesus and the Bible that say Jesus told a lie to His brothers because He did go... but that's a statement of ignorance. Jesus said in *verse 8*, *"I go not up YET unto this feast."*

In other words, Jesus tells His brothers, *"You go on up without Me... I'll come later when it's time for me to come."* He doesn't want to go up in a spectacle with His brothers... He's going to go up quietly, and wait until about mid-week before He even makes His presence known.

And we know that's what happens... Jesus does go... He goes incognito... undercover if you will, but He doesn't stay that way. We will see that He eventually teaches publicly in the temple. And that's going to have ramifications later on!

It's going to cause the world to hate Him even more. In-fact; from this point on, Jesus ministry focus changes some, and He continually is going to be rebuking the Jewish leaders. And they are going to continually be looking for ways to trap Him, and/or kill Him.

But in spite of the rejection, even by family, Jesus kept right on going!

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And eventually there is another change that's going to take place as well...

We don't know exactly when it takes place, but it happens. Most probably it's after Christ's resurrection!

What happens is that at least two of Jesus' brothers came to faith. James and Jude both got saved. James became the pastor of the Jerusalem Church, and wrote the Book of James.

He and Peter are the ones who met with the Apostle Paul after his conversion and they confirmed that he had genuinely come to faith. And James presided over the Jerusalem council in Acts 15.

Jude, went on to be a missionary, and he wrote the Book of Jude that we are looking at on Sunday evenings right now. He warned Believers of false teachers and apostasy!

So at least two of Jesus' brothers ended up getting saved! And that should give us hope if we have lost loved ones!

It should remind us that there is no one who is too far from God to be saved as long as they have breath:

He can change hearts, and minds, and bring new life to dead souls.
He can take people who hate Him, and turn their hearts toward Him.
He can take people who are imprisoned and enslaved by sin, and set them free.

If you are a Believer, think of what you were and where you were when Jesus found you! What He did for you He can do for those you love and are concerned about!

And if you don't know Christ, understand that today is the day of salvation! Because right here, right now is all you have! None of us have the promise of another minute! Come to Christ while you can!