



The Gift Not Everyone Wants

Series: *The Best Gift of All* John 1:1-3

December 3, 2017

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A King was born

John 1:1-3; Luke 2:6-7; John 1:10-11

Two reasons Jesus was rejected by so many...

1. People were **offended** by His message
Isaiah 53:3
2. If they receive Jesus, then they have to **reject** something else
John 12:42-43

Two groups that rejected Jesus

1. The Romans rejected Jesus because they didn't like **God's people**
2. The Jews rejected Jesus because He wasn't the Messiah they **wanted**
John 1:11

The gift of a Savior

Matthew 1:1; John 14:3

Growth Group Questions

All references from New International Version (NIV)

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?

MY STORY

1. Share about a time when you received a gift that you didn't want or need, and the gift really served no purpose. What did you do with the gift?
2. Share about a time in your life where someone (other than Jesus) had to sacrifice their own needs or wants for yours. Who was it? What did they do?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Jesus left heaven and "...made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." (Philippians 2:7) Why did Jesus do this?

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Romans 8:3

³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh.

2 Corinthians 8:9

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

Hebrews 2:17

¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

In 1 John 2:6 John says, ⁶ "Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did." How do we know what Jesus did? Of the things Jesus did, what is one of the hardest things for you to emulate?

In John 14:9 Jesus said to Philip, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." So what are some of the things we learn about God through Jesus?

2. Brian mentioned that people are more willing to accept the 'Christmas Jesus' than they are the 'crucified Jesus'. Why do you think that is? Read the following verses and identify reasons why Jesus would've been popular.

Matthew 11:5

⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

Luke 7:14-15

¹⁴ Then he went up and touched the bier they were carrying him on, and the bearers stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" ¹⁵ The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

John 6:11

¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.

John 11:43-44

⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"
⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

At Christmastime, non-Christians have no problem hearing Christmas carols played at the mall, but if you played Christian music throughout the year, they would be offended. Why do you think that is?

Was there ever a time in your life when the gospel offended you? Explain.

3. People loved the 'miracle Jesus', but not the 'preaching Jesus'. In John 6:66 John says, ⁶⁶ "From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him." What do the following verses say about people rejecting Jesus?

1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:14

¹⁴ The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:3

³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-10

⁹ The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, ¹⁰ and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

Have you ever tried to talk to someone about Jesus and that person was not interested in hearing about Him? Why wasn't the person interested?

Christians follow Christ. That means we obey Him and His Word. What are some of the hardest commands for you to follow?

4. The Romans rejected Jesus because He was Jewish, and they hated the Jews. The Jews rejected Jesus because He wasn't the messiah they wanted. What do these verses say about the response people had toward Jesus on earth?

Psalms 22:6

⁶ But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people.

Isaiah 53:3

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

John 1:10-11

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Have you ever been turned off to Church because of Christians? Explain.

How would some non-Christians finish this statement, "If Jesus would just _____, then I would follow Him."?

TAKING IT HOME

Based on this week's sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?