Why The Jews Rejected Christ

Intro: Matthew 27:22, 25 “Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. . . . Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.” In all of history there is no parallel to the rejection of Jesus by His own people. How can we account for this catastrophe?

1. Had not the Jews been looking for the coming Messiah? If so, why did they reject Him when He came?
   a. The Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah (Christ) would be rejected by His own.
   b. Rom. 9:33 “As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.”
   c. Isa. 8:14-15 “And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 37And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.”

2. Let us then notice specifically some of the reasons for the Jews rejection of Christ.

I. **THEY WERE DISAPPOINTED IN HIM.**

   A. Their minds were made up before Christ came as to what He should be like.
      1. They know the prophecies that said the Messiah would sit on David's throne, but they gave these prophecies a literal construction.
      2. John 6:15 “When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.”
      3. Mat. 18:1 “At the same time came the disciples unto Jesus, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
      4. Luke 24:21 “But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.”
      5. Acts 1:6 “When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?”

   B. They had pre-judged, thus were prejudiced.
      1. When Christ did not meet their expectations they were disappointed in Him.
      2. This still prevents many from accepting Jesus.
         a. Minds are made up before investigation of God's Word.
         b. When His Word does not meet their expectations they are disappointed and reject Him.

II. **CHRIST STRESSED THE SPIRITUAL ABOVE THE TEMPORAL.**

   A. The Jews rejected Christ because He condemned their materialistic thinking and living.
      1. Mat. 6:31-32, 34 “Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? 32(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. . . . 34Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”
      2. Mat. 8:28-34 “And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by
And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. And, behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts.”

3. Mat. 10:28 “And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”

4. Mat. 10:35-37 “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.”

5. Mat. 16:26 “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”

6. Mat. 22:21 “They say unto him, Caesar’s. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God’s.”

7. Many today are offended in Christ because He emphasized the spiritual and minimized the temporal; cf. Mat. 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

III. JESUS CONDEMNED AND CONTRADICTED THE POPULAR RELIGIONS.

A. The Pharisees and Sadducees were the most prominent Jewish sects.

1. Mat. 15:1-13 “Then came to Jesus scribes and Pharisees, which were of Jerusalem, saying, Why do thy disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? for they wash not their hands when they eat bread. But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death. But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition. Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. And he called the multitude, and said unto them, Hear, and understand: Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man. Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”

2. Notice what Christ said about them. Because Jesus condemned and contradicted them the Jews refused Him.

a. Sadducees: see Mat. 22:29 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”

b. Pharisees: see Mat. 23.

B. There are those today who are offended when error is condemned and contradicted.

1. They seem to think one cannot be critical of any religious practice or doctrine and still have the mind of Christ.

2. Such a one certainly has a misconception concerning the mind of Christ.

a. To be Christ-like, we must condemn error.

b. Study the apostles and early church.
3. Souls are at stake; error must be condemned.

**IV. CHRIST WAS REJECTED BECAUSE OF HIS HUMBLE ORIGIN AND SIMPLICITY.**

A. Christ’s birth was not in harmony with the Jews expectations.
   1. Jesus was too plain, too humble.
   2. Mat. 13:55 “Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?”

B. To many today Christ is still too simple.
   1. To test the faith of men Christ gave them simple commands to keep.
   2. There is a good example in the Old Testament.
      a. Naaman in 2 Kings 5
      b. Why did Naaman become angry?
         (1) Because of the simplicity.
         (2) 2 Kings 5:11 “But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper.”
   3. The main reason why people add or subtract from God’s Word today is because they, like the Jews, reject Christ’s simplicity.
      a. Instrumental Music in worship.
      b. Baptism.

Conclusion: Have you noticed throughout this study that the Jews rejection of Christ was primarily because Christ did not conform to their thoughts, desires and expectations? Unlike the Jews, let us harmonize our thoughts, desires, and expectations with the Word of God.