

What Did You Expect?

Isaiah 53:1-3

Jesus is rejected because He does not meet our expectations of a Savior.

Why **was** Jesus rejected?

1. Because He didn't _____ the way they expected.
 - a. What did they expect?

 - b. How did Jesus come up?

2. Because He didn't _____ they expected.
 - a. What did they expect?

 - b. How did Jesus look to them?

3. Because He didn't _____ they expected.
 - a. What did they expect?

 - b. What did Jesus come to do?

What about now? Why **is** Jesus rejected?

Jeremiah 44:16-18

What about you? What do you expect?

What Did You Expect?

READY

Why do people tend to respond more favorably to messages delivered by attractive people?

SET & GO Primary Text: Isaiah 53:1-3

Supplementing Texts: Jeremiah 44:16-18

Set 1 *Read Isaiah 53:1-3 aloud.* Answer the following questions:

What two questions are posed in v 1? What is the answer to these questions?

What two images are used in v 2 to describe how this Servant will grow up?

In v 3 there are at least 4 ways that people respond to this Servant. What are they?

According to v 2, why do the people respond to Him this way?

Set 2 *Briefly discuss:* Isaiah begins this section by posing the question, “Who has believed our message?” The answer is that very few believed Isaiah then (cf. 6:9-10), and very few **would** believe among His own people (cf. John 1:11). In the second question, the “arm of the LORD” refers to the display of God’s saving power, and he indicates that God must reveal it; that is, if anyone is to believe that God’s Servant will save His people in the manner described here, God must open his eyes (cf. Matt. 13:14-16).

Go 2a How is the rejection spoken of here similar to that referred to by Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:21-24?

Go 2b Isaiah understood that acceptance of the message would only come if God chose to reveal it. How did this shape how he shared the message? How should this shape how you share the message?

Go 2c Why should this take the pressure off of you as the messenger? How should this help you share?

Set 3 *Briefly discuss:* The people rejected, and will reject, Jesus because He does not meet their expectations of a savior. Jesus was born into obscurity and came from a line of David that had been reduced to poverty and insignificance (v 2a). He did not look like royalty or present Himself as a great ruler (v 2b). He was seemingly born out of immorality (cf. Jn. 8:41), hung out with the dregs of society (cf. Matt. 11:19), and spoke in ways that drove people away from Him (cf. Matt. 13:13-15; Jn. 6:60-66). The real Jesus is not what people want unless God opens their eyes to the truth of His saving power.

Go 3a Most Americans (62% according to Barna) say they have “made a personal commitment to Jesus,” but a great many do not accept the true gospel. What do you think these people find attractive about Jesus? How do these attractive features differ from the real Jesus?

Go 3b How are you tempted in your own mind to distort the facts about Jesus’ real life and teachings?

Go 3c The real Jesus is “despised and forsaken of men” (v 3). He is unattractive to the world (v 2). In what ways do we sometimes try to “help Him out” and make Him more attractive to an unbelieving world?

Set 4 *Briefly discuss:* The people also rejected Jesus because His mission didn’t line up with what they expected from a savior king. They were looking for someone to set them free from earthly oppression, to provide for their material needs, to bring a flourishing to their lives now; but Jesus came to suffer and die. He was “a man of sorrows” and intimately knew grief (v 3), and what He offers those who will follow Him in this life is suffering and death to self. His promise of glory is a **future** hope.

Go 4a What are many people today hoping to get from Jesus? What are you tempted to “want” from Him?

Go 4b How do you react to the idea that Jesus calls you to a life of suffering? Discuss Romans 8:16-18 and 1 Peter 4:12-13. Why will it take God’s work of grace to make **this** message attractive?

Go 4c How can we sometimes be like the people speaking in Jeremiah 44:16-18?

FINISH

Will your faith in Jesus remain when intense suffering comes, or is your faith dependent on Him making your life better?