

9-24-17 Message **Reasons People Hated Christ**

Intro: When Jesus came to this planet there were a lot of people that hated Him and wanted to get rid of Him. In this message this morning I am going to share why that is. Don't be surprised if a lot of people would react the same today towards Him. In fact, the things that people hated about Jesus they will hate about people that are like Jesus.

The other day I was thinking, as we read our New Testament we often think how stupid were the people in the day that Jesus walked planet earth to reject Him. Then I thought, I wonder, would we be any different. We do the same thing when we think back to Adam and Eve. We think if we were there we never would have eaten that forbidden fruit. According to the Bible, you would have and in Adam you did!

This morning I want to look at some of the things that people hated about Christ. I also want to suggest that if these vices or traits are in us, we would react the same way.

It kind of reminds me of the story of Peter the Apostle, when Jesus said they would all scatter and desert Him. Peter said, not me, no, never. I will die before I forsake you, Lord. What did Jesus say to Peter..

Mark 14:29 But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I.

Mark 14:30 And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice.

This morning we are going to look at some of the reasons Jesus was hated and persecuted by certain people.

I. THE FIRST ATTACK WAS MADE BY HEROD WHEN JESUS WAS IN BETHLEHEM.

Matthew 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Matthew 2:4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

Matthew 2:5 And they said unto him, In Beth-lehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

Matthew 2:6 And thou Beth-lehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Matthew 2:7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Beth-lehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

Matthew 2:16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Beth-lehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.

1. THERE ARE MANY WHO HATE CHRIST BECAUSE HE IS A THREAT TO THEIR WORLDLY POSITION.

Herod was King of Judea and attained his position through murder and political intrigue. He even divorced his wife and exiled his son in order to strengthen his throne. A man who was insecure about his position, and when a legitimate contender a son of David being proclaimed the promised messiah was rumored to be born in Bethlehem, he hated Him not even knowing anything about Him.

Now here is the main reason people hate Christ. It is because He is a threat to their livelihood and way of life.

It was for this reason that for close to two years after hearing the gospel I rejected the gospel. I would not have thought myself as a person who hated Christ. I would never have thought I would have been like these who persecuted Christ. Nevertheless, Jesus said,

Luke 11:23 He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth.

Back then I saw the gospel message as something that was totally opposed to my way of life, my career, my livelihood. It was against everything I knew.

It was against my religious upbringing.
It was against my career goals.

Do you think Herod was excited about the news that the Messiah was born? No, Jesus was a threat to him.

Imagine you had a good paying job that was all wrapped up in things that Christ opposed. What would your reaction be towards Him?

You see most people have never been tested in this way. Being a Christian did not cause you to lose anything in this world. But if it did or if Christ were to say to you like He did with that rich man of old.

2. THERE ARE SOME WHO REJECTED JESUS BECAUSE OF FEAR OF LOSING EARTHLY GAIN.

Matthew 19:21 Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Matthew 19:22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

Matthew 19:23 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 19:24 And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

This Rich man went away very sad. But men like Herod would go away very MAD. Touch their pocket book and it is like taking a a T Bone steak away from a hungry pit bull.

This is the number one reason people hate Christ or Christianity. It is a threat to their way of life.

How sad it is that I see people on their death beds worrying about the things they possess. They should be concerned for their souls.

II. THE NEXT REASON PEOPLE HATED CHRIST WAS BECAUSE HE REBUKED THEM.

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

Luke 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luke 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luke 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

Luke 4:21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Luke 4:22 And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?

Luke 4:23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.

Luke 4:24 And he said, Verily I say unto you, No prophet is accepted in his own country.

Luke 4:25 But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;

Luke 4:26 But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.

Luke 4:27 And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.

Luke 4:28 And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath,

Luke 4:29 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.

Luke 4:30 But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

What did Jesus say that would get these people so angry? It never ceases to amaze me how it is that some people can get so upset at what is preached from the word of God. What could He possibly have said that would make these people want to kill Him?

He said the truth that they were pretending to hide.

1. He Exposed that they did not believe in Him or would not receive Him.

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If the Lord were to walk through the doors of this church he would clearly expose each of our faults. That's what he did to the seven Churches in the book of Revelation. What would he say? What rebuke would He give?

The Bible says,

Proverbs 27:5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Notice, these people did not like the preaching of Jesus because it included application and rebuke.

He said to these people, this day this Scripture is fulfilled and you are rejecting what it says.

Now I guess that was a blow in and of itself. But the Lord went even further.

2. HE EXPOSED HOW GOD WILL NOT RESPECT THEIR PERSONS BUT THEY COULD BE PASSED OVER FOR A BLESSING.

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Here Jesus gave two illustrations that really cut them to the heart.

Elijah was not received in his own country during the famine years and God sent him to widow lady in the Zerephath a city of Sidon, this was a gentile country. Jesus was saying that the people that were despised of Israel got the blessing and they missed out because they would not receive Him

Then He uses the illustration of Naaman the Syrian general who was healed of his leprosy, again a gentile.

This was meant to be a blow to them. A rebuke they were going to miss out on the blessings because of their unbelief. They prided themselves in being children of Abraham, the chosen people, but they were rejecting Him as their messiah and outsiders were receiving Him.

Now this rebuke was pointed.

This rebuke was personal.

This rebuke was true.

This rebuke cut right to the heart of the matter.

Now I wonder if Jesus were here and preached, I wonder how many people would not like His preaching and teaching because he convicted them.

There are a lot of people that just don't like being corrected!

But those who love the word of God,
those who love the Lord will say as King David said:

Psalms 19:12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Psalms 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

III. ANOTHER REASON HE WAS HATED IS THAT THERE WERE MANY WHO WERE PLAIN JEALOUS OF HIM.

When Jesus was arrested and railroaded and was dragged into Pilate's court, Pilate sought to release Jesus because he knew he was innocent. It says clearly that Pilate knew what this was all about.

Matthew 27:18 For he knew that for envy they had delivered him.

The leaders were envious of our Lord.

Many people were believing on Him, but they were afraid of losing their positions, their power, and their influence over the people.

Now it is not so simple to determine if you would have these ill feelings towards the Lord if you walked in the shoes of those people in that day. Jesus is not here to be envious of.

But that wickedness is still here. There are many many people who get these ill feelings towards others.

The feelings you have towards Christ's children are the same feelings you would have towards Him.

The first sin that brought the first murder into this world was the sin of envy. Cain envied his brother Abel, and then he killed him.

1. What exactly is ENVY?

Envy is when you have bad feelings when a person is blessed or successful. In a subtle way another persons success may be a rebuke to your failure to do right.

This is what God told Cain.

Genesis 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

Do right, do well and you will be accepted. Why does a person get angry when someone else is blessed for doing right? They get angry because the success or blessing of the person envied is a rebuke to their evil deeds.

2. Why was Jesus Envied:

He was empowered of God, the religious leaders were not.

The people flocked to hear Him. The religious leaders were not heard.

He did great miracles. The religious leaders did nothing. He gave, they took.

He was from God. They were of their father the devil.

3. **HOW WOULD WE KNOW THAT THAT SOMEONE WOULD BE LIKE THOSE WHO WERE ENVIOUS OF OUR LORD?**

Notice how people always have good things to say about someone that is dead? They're dead and who envies a dead person?

Jesus is not here, so how could you be envious of someone who is not here?

The Pharisees all lauded the prophets. Jesus said of them:

Matthew 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Matthew 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

Matthew 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Matthew 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

These people said, oh we would have never killed these prophets if we were back there. Easy to say because it is impossible to be back there.

Just like our political leaders today: They passed legislation to repeal Obamacare when Obama was in office, knowing he would veto the bill as soon as it got to him. But now that Trump is in office the same people that voted for the bill they sent to Obama will not vote for the same exact bill knowing Trump will approve it. Something is wrong?

It's easy to say if I were back in the days of Christ I would have received Him. I would not have done what they did. I would not have been part of the mob that lynched Him. I would not have been intimidated by the religious leaders. I would have been one of His disciples. How do you know?

If Jesus were here and he all of sudden popped into the service and took the pulpit, and then shared some deep dark hidden truth about your life and revealed it in his preaching, would you still love Him?

If Jesus were here and showed you that that activity that you are deeply engrained in, that habit that you think is totally acceptable, that life style that engrained in your very nature is something that is unacceptable to God and will keep you out of heaven would you get angry a bit?

It's easy to say you wouldn't.

Look, Pastor Bissol is in fact a watered down Jesus. If you can't handle the preaching that a reflection gives how could you handle the real thing?

I asked myself this question this week. What if Jesus walked through these doors and unveiled my heart. Would I still love him? It's easy to say you would. Just like the Pharisees said. If we were there back in the days of Jeremiah we would not have put him in that dungeon. If we had been there in the days of **Isaiah** who was killed by Manasseh, tradition says he was sawed in half by Mannasseh, Hebrews says,

Hebrews 11:37 They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented;

Amos (was) from the land of Tekoa Jewish tradition states that the priest of Bethel tortured him and afterwards slew him.

Joel the son of Bethuel (Pethuel), of the tribe of Reuben, some say that Ahaziah the son of Amaziah smote him with a staff upon his head;

Micah the Morashthite (was) of the tribe of Ephraim, and was slain by Joram the son of Ahab

Habakkuk (was) of the tribe of Simeon, and from the land of(Zoar). This the The Jews stoned him in Jerusalem.

The Jews stoned **Jeremiah** the son of Hilkiah in Egypt,

Ezekiel the son of Buzi, It is said that the chief of the Jews who was in the land of the Chaldeans slew him, because he rebuked him for worshipping idols.

Zechariah the son of Berachiah, the priest, was from Jerusalem. Joash the king slew this (prophet) between the steps and the altar, and sprinkled his blood upon the horns of the altar, and the priests buried him.

It is easy to say that if I were there back in those days I would have stood up against these. My voice would have been heard. WOULD YOU?

It is easy to say what you would have done in the past if you were there. We do not live in the past we live in the present. What will you do today?

If Jesus spoke to you like He did to His disciples would you stick around?
Why do you think Judas betrayed the Lord?

We know the devil entered into him. But how exactly did that happen?

It happened after Jesus exposed him for what he was. Little by little Judas realized he was found out. He was stealing money from the treasury and after Jesus rebuked him for criticizing the woman who poured out the costly ointment on his head. It was after this that Judas went out and made an agreement for 30 pieces of silver to betray the Lord.

Read the Scripture. When Jesus walked planet earth he was constantly correcting and rebuking His disciples, teaching them, correcting them.

What makes you think that if you will not be corrected by the preaching of the Word of God today that you would accept it in the day of our Lord?

I see a tendency today. Less and less people are willing to take correction. More and more people dislike pointed direct preaching on issues.

What makes you think that if Jesus were here you would like Him?

CONCLUSION:

I say to you, think about what your reaction would indeed be to Christ. How you love or hate the word of God today is evidence of how you would love or hate Jesus. When Jesus walked planet earth He was the word of God incarnate. This book rebukes and corrects us. So did Jesus. Think about it.

To the **woman at the well** He said go call your husband.

To that old man **Nicodemus** He said are you a teacher of Israel and don't know these things.

To the **rich man** He said go sell all that you have and you will have treasure in heaven..

To the **lame man** who was healed He said, be careful of sin and a worse thing come upon you .. than being lame..

To **Martha** .. He said Martha Martha though art cumbered about much serving.

To the **self righteous Pharisee** He said, he that is forgiven much loveth much to whom little is forgiven loveth little.

To **Peter** He said tonight you will deny me three times.

On and On we could go.

How many times did he say, OH YE OF LITTLE FAITH.

How many times did he say, Verily Verily.

Almost every time His disciples opened their mouths He corrected them.

We have an idea about Jesus that is totally different than what we read in the Bible. I think maybe we should say, ***Would the real Jesus Stand Up.***

Here is the real Jesus:

Revelation 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

Revelation 1:13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead.

If we really could see who He is we would do the same thing the beloved Apostle John did.. WE WOULD FALL FLAT ON OUR FACES BEFORE HIM!

Then and only then He would receive us.

"And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last "