

COME UNTO ME

by

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CHAPTER SIX

THE UNWANTED CHRIST

He is despised and rejected of man; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not (Isaiah 53:3).

One of the most startling statements in the Old Testament, perhaps in the entire Bible, is the one Isaiah makes here. It chills the blood, stuns the heart, troubles the mind with its fearful implications of eternal doom.

The tragedy is that it is just as terribly true today as it ever was. Jesus Christ is still despised and rejected of men. The fifty third chapter of Isaiah is undoubtedly the most controversial chapter in the entire Hebrew Scriptures. The Jews are still unwilling to admit that it refers to the Messiah Jesus. Modernistic scholars, liberal preachers, rationalistic theologians have joined their voices in the fearful chorus of doubt and denial. Orthodox Christian professors, as well as many of the orthodox Jewish Rabbis have through the ages acknowledged that this tremendous chapter points to the atonement, the resurrection, the reign, the rejoicing of the Messiah, the promised Son of David, who was to bear the burdens of a world's sins in His own tortured self.

A careful reading of the life and sufferings of our Saviour cannot fail but come to the conclusion that every word of the chapter has been, and still is being, and shall continue to be, entirely fulfilled until Jesus Christ comes again.

Especially is this true of the portion we are considering in this message, **“He was despised and rejected of men.”** John the Apostle tells us, **“He came to His own, and His own received Him not.”** The learned, the rich, the mighty, the prominent among the Jews, were almost universally combined against Him. Differ as they might on everything else, the various sects of the Pharisees, the Herodians, the Sadducees, united in the one attempt to discredit His person, His doctrine, His mission. He was condemned as an impostor and blasphemer. He was crucified a common criminal. He was disowned in the most public and contemptuous manner before Pontius Pilate when they cried, as with one voice, **“Away with Him! Away with Him! Crucify Him! Crucify Him!”** What humiliation, what agonizing humiliation the Saviour must have suffered.

I verily believe that the cruel nails of the cross were but a light weight in comparison with this heartache, the heartbreak, He endured when the mad, milling mob made mockery of Him on the bitter tree.

But wait, be sure of this, the Jews are not the only people chargeable with this awful crime. As Christ has been, so He still is “**despised and rejected of men.**”

Think of how He is being pilloried by those who claim to know Him as Saviour, those who have been baptized supposedly into His body, the church. Think of how He is being denied by the great so-called Christian schools, scholars, churches, preachers, denominations of the land, and of the world. Think of how the presses, the magazine articles, the latest books misinterpret Him, mistreat Him, grudgingly at times, at times as a sort of a favor, acclaiming Him the greatest of men, yet denying Him His throne rights as the only begotten Son of God.

Why can they not see that if He is not the God man, He cannot be the good man; that either He is begotten of the Holy Spirit, or His whole life is blighted by the bleak, black cloud of illegitimacy? Think of how He is being despised and rejected, His claims denied and defied by the devotees of the world, the devil, the flesh. Think of the host of our church members who, claiming to trust Him for the forgiveness of their sins, claiming to acknowledge Him as Saviour and Lord, yet live lewd, lustful, lascivious lives that belie their professions and protestations.

There are three terrible truths involved in this brief word, “**He is despised and rejected of men.**”

- First, you have the bitter conviction that men today do despise and reject him.
- Second, there are the blinding causes for this contempt.
- Third, we must finish with the blighting consequences of this condition.

How do men today, men, women, children, in your very city, all about you, perhaps yourself amongst them, despise and reject Christ? His glorious person is no longer exposed to the physical outrages of men. His precious body can no longer be scourged. He can no longer be buffeted by cruel hands. His face can no more be spat upon. There is no crown of biting thorns being pleated for His holy head. There is no Golgotha's cross waiting for Him.

Praise God, on His glorious intercessory throne, He is far beyond the reach of any such abuse. But yet, today, right now, while my humble voice reaches your ears, there are other no less criminal respects in which Jesus, the Christ of God, is still despised and rejected of many. I am not even thinking of those who openly deny the Lord that bought them, not of those who by tongue and pen entertain, express, publish, opinions contrary to, and inconsistent with a real regard, a real esteem, a real love for Him. Of these, I am not afraid. With these, I am not concerned at the moment. Thinking people know that this breed of unbelievers are merely throwing dust in the air, hiding their sins behind the specious arguments of science so called, of a cheap intellectualism of a baseless infidelity, of something someone else has said or written.

In general, those who are ignorant of the religion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ must of necessity be regarded as despisers of His grace.

There is no excuse for not knowing the revelation of God concerning His Son. There are too many Bibles, too many churches, too many Sunday schools, too many revivals, too many religious broadcasts, for anyone, Jew or Gentile, to advance that argument.

There is no such blindness as the blindness of the wilfully ignorant, of those who shut their eyes to the truth. But this is not what is on my heart in these moments. Listen! They despise Christ who deny His authority, who break His commandments, who defy this express and expressed will.

We are told that all power is committed into His mighty hands, that God has put all things under His feet. He has a right to our regard, to our respect, to our obedience. He has a fourfold claim upon each of us.

- There is the claim of creation.
- There is the claim of preservation.
- There is the claim of redemption.
- There is the claim of ordination, the ordination, the revelation, the coronation of God by virtue of which He has been enthroned Lord of all.

But, need I develop this? Your Lord Jesus is the moral ruler of the universe, and He is, if His commands are binding on all men, and they are, then surely multitudes of you and multitudes all about you, who are living in any sort of overt sin, big or little, are criminals, conspirators, rebels against the sovereignty of this enthroned Redeemer. Continuance in any sort of known, open sin is despising and rejecting Jesus Christ. You do it at your peril, at your dreadful peril. The throne rights of Jesus Christ absolutely demand that dire, bitter, inescapable punishment be visited on those who despise, defy, deny the heir of God.

There are again *those who neglect to receive Him as their own Saviour.*

They will not close with the oft repeated, pleading offers of His great mercies. They will not choose Him as the only way to the Father. The Scriptures plainly teach and Christians, true, born again children of God, everywhere recognize Jesus Christ as the sole Mediator. We honor Him in this capacity. We renounce, refuse, totally reject, the thought of being forgiven, justified, saved by any other means. We rely wholly upon His great sacrifice, upon His ceaseless intercessions.

To turn your back upon all this is to despise the mercy, the patience, the longsuffering, the tender compassion, to brave the wrath of God.

All sorts of conjectures have been advanced as to the meaning of the unpardonable sin. I say to you there is but one unpardonable sin, but it is unpardonable in time and in eternity, the sin of unbelief, the sin of Christ rejection, the sin of Christ neglecting.

The Word of God is specific, **“He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”**

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him” (John 3:18, 36).

Refuse or delay to put your faith in this Christ of God, and you have aligned yourself with the despisers and the rejecters. All manner of sin is forgivable but this. Though your soul be as stained as hell itself, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son will cleanse you fully, freely. Reject, however, the Christ, the blood of Calvary, and not even God, with all His great mercies, with all of His mighty power can save you from the torments of hell.

There are further those who do not give Jesus chief room in their hearts, preferring Him in their choice to everything else in all this world. The language of the true disciples is, "***Whom have I in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.***"

Christ Himself says, "***If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.***" Too many so-called Christians, church members, are willing to use the plan of salvation as a sort of insurance policy to keep them out of hell, but are not willing to enthrone Jesus Lord of all.

Let me warn you. It will not work. Hear the words of the Master, "***Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.***"

Nothing short of that will suffice. Someone has well said,

"You do not crown Him Lord at all,
if you do not crown Him Lord of all."

- You cannot be saved unless you enter His service.
- You cannot be His saint unless and until you are willing to become His servant.
- You cannot share His crown without bearing, and dying on His cross.

But, after these nineteen hundred years of blessings, of bounties, of benefits, what are the causes for this destroying contempt?

There may be a secret unbelief.

People flatter themselves with the thought that because they are not ignorant heathen, because they are not superstitious idolaters, because they are not downright avowed atheists and infidels, they are believers.

- Faith is more than feeling. It is a motivating, constraining force.
- Believing is more than subscribing to some creed or dogma. It is a driving compulsion that leads us out on the Lord's side, to do the Lord's will.

If you have not closed with Christ as your own personal Saviour, a good part of the reason is your rank unbelief. Your unbelief, in Christian America, with its multitudinous churches, its gospel services and broadcasts, its numberless churches and Bibles will condemn you much more than the unbelief of some benighted, opportunity lacking heathen.

Love of the world is another cause for this contempt.

What an indictment comes from the flaming pen of the Apostle Paul. How it makes our very souls quiver. **“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.”** How John pleads with us, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.”**

There are too many who are trading Christ and heaven for the world. It is a poor bargain. Yet the crowd is rapidly increasing. The baubles of Satan, the tinsel of the world, the painted death’s-head show of the flesh are recruiting increasing numbers of devotees.

Now, let us hasten on to finish. Consider with me the frightful consequences of this sin of all sins, despising and rejecting your Saviour.

To despise and reject Christ is the blackest, the basest ingratitude.

God gave you life. God has surrounded you with all the bounties of His grace. God has been patient and long suffering with you. God has stood for your bleak sins, has thus far overlooked your disobediences. God sent His own Son, the heart of His heart, to the cross to die for your guilt. How can you find it in your souls to despise mercies like that? How can you steel your hearts against such wooings? How can you turn your backs on such overtures? How can you tread such love under foot by your denying, and delaying? How can you say, “No,” to such invitations?

It is the most insolent contempt of the wisdom, the goodness, the government of God. You shake your fist in the face of God when you go on in your sins. You dare God to stop you in your headlong flight. You take the very gifts God has so matchlessly bestowed upon you, and use them against God, for the enemy of God, even Satan. You are daring God to execute the rigor of His justice. Any minute God may take you up. It is all an act of bitter rebellion. You are bidding defiance to the Most High. You are taking a dangerous chance. You are running a frightful risk. The end of it, the consequences of it, will be your death and damnation— body and soul. The outcome of it will be the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, the prison house of the damned.

I beseech you, turn, lest you burn. Make a careful inquiry into your attitude, your esteem of the Christ of God.

- You may weep at His sufferings.
- You may feel some emotions of gratitude and joy when you hear of the greatness of His love.

But, do you love Jesus Christ more than all other things put together?

Will you express that deep affection, that sincere gratitude, that holy admiration by cordially accepting Him as your Saviour, by cheerfully obeying Him from now on? If you do not, you will be ranked with the despisers of God's Son. You will continue a slave of Satan. Your doom is recorded and sealed in eternity. Hell is enlarging its borders to swallow up your soul.

Turn, friend, even now. Look to Jesus dying for your sins on the bloody Cross. You have despised Him long enough. Come to Him now, even now, as my plea beats on your heart. Come to Him by prayer and faith. He will receive you with open arms.

~ end of chapter 6 ~

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