

# JESUS AND HIS FOLLOWERS ARE REJECTED

Matthew 13.53-14.12

## JESUS FACES REJECTION

Matthew is broken into 5 sections; each section begins with a teaching discourse and is followed by a narrative that demonstrates the teaching. We are now moving into a new narrative. Here, we are going to see that cross is becoming more clear as division gets heightened, and the disciples become a more integral part of the story.

Matthew 13.53-58

## JOHN THE BAPTIST IS BEHEADED

Matthew 14.1-12

### **Some Historical Background**

- Herod fell in love with his half brother's wife, Herodias. She was also his niece, the daughter of his other half brother! She divorced her husband, and Herod divorced his wife, and they married.
- John condemned the marriage publicly, but because of John being held in esteem, he didn't have him executed.
- Josephus claims John was held in Machaerus near the Dead Sea.
- Herodias had her daughter dance before Herod, probably sensual.
- She was only 12-14 years old, and his step-daughter.

Why is this here? Matthew puts this "flashback" in order to bring context to what is a growing hostility toward Jesus. He is writing and setting the stage to show his readers what they also can expect if they choose to follow the King of kings.

Matthew 10.24, 25 // 1 Peter 2.21, 4.12-14 // 1 John 3.13

**Jesus had love to suffer for me  
that I might have faith to suffer with Him.**

## THE SUBTLE PROGRESSION OF PERSECUTION

- 1. Stereotype the Targeted Group:** Stereotype means "repeat again and again." Pick out the negative traits of the group, and repeat them over and over until those phrases become synonymous and accepted as accurate descriptions.
- 2. Vilifying the Targeted Group for Alleged Crimes or Misconduct:** When the stereotype is accepted, this leads to a growing disdain for that group that leads to a permissible, herd-mentality and publically accepted and sanctioned bigotry.
- 3. Marginalizing the Targeted Group's Role in Society:** Find ways to keep the group's role out of the public square. Allow them to vote and serve in places of community prominence, but make them leave their beliefs at home.
- 4. Criminalization:** Integrate policy changes slowly. Early attempts at extreme criminalization never usually occur, but once a "breaking of the ice" happens, the avalanche comes.
- 5. Outright Persecution:** Now the group is shunned, stripped of more rights, penalized, arrested, and, at its worst, executed.

**Suffering is not the worst thing that can happen to us.  
Disobedience to God is the worst thing.**

-Unknown Persecuted Vietnamese Christian

## NOTES:

### Will You Pray With Us?

Follow along with our daily prayer requests by downloading the **PrayerMate App**, available on both **iOS** and **Android** phones. Go to our website for detailed instructions on how to subscribe to the app to be praying with us daily, as well as reading through our **2 Year Bible Reading Plan**.

## ARE YOU NEW HERE?

### WELCOME TO LIFE MISSION CHURCH!

We'd LOVE for you to fill out the green **Connection Card** on your seat to let us know you were here today. You can drop it in the offering at the end of service or take it to one of our teammates in a **Green Shirt** at the **Connection Booth** outside - we'd love to give you some welcome information.

Feel free to grab some food or coffee out in the courtyard and hang out. We hope you'll **join us next Sunday** and consider making us your church family.

### SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

If you've ever taken your child to one of our **Kids on Mission** classes, or enjoyed a cup of coffee after service, chances are there was a faithful servant behind each of those examples. By giving your time and talent on Sundays, you're **an essential part** of helping others meet Jesus, and serving is one of the **most fun & rewarding ways we experience community** with our church family! Fill out a connection card or visit the **Connection Booth** to learn about the serving opportunities available today.

### COMMUNITY GROUPS

The best way to **get connected** in the church is by joining one of our **Community Groups!** You'll forge friendships, be encouraged, and take the sermon deeper into your heart every week. **Sign up for a Group** on a **Connection Card** or visit the **Connection Booth**. You won't regret it!

### GIVING

**Gospel-centered generosity** is motivated by a heart of thankfulness because of the sacrificial love God has already shown us. If you call **Life Mission** your home, you can place your gift in the offering baskets at the end of service, give online at [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/give) or mail a check to our PO Box. Thank you so much!

### KIDS ON MISSION

Our **Kids on Mission** ministry has classes for **newborns - 6th grade**. Please visit [lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids](http://lifemissionchurch.com/blog/kids) to read more about the vision and plan we have for our kids, including Pastor Jobey's heart for the ministry and his walkthrough of our curriculum.

### JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Our **7th & 8th graders** worship with the adults and then head to the junior high room with their teacher and class for the rest of service.

Our **High School students** stay in the service because we believe that it is critical for them to not "graduate the faith" when they graduate school. For questions on our student ministries, contact **Casey Barnes** at [hbarnes5@yahoo.com](mailto:hbarnes5@yahoo.com).



## SAVE.

Jesus was sent to save. We have been saved to be sent. We are sent into our community to share the Good News that Christ came to save us, and we hope to see many who find new life.

## EQUIP.

We want to equip those very people in the Word so that they can continue to grow as disciples of Christ. From our preschool to our adults, our passion is to see everyone equipped in the Gospel to live a life of freedom and joy.

## SEND.

Lastly, we then want to see those equipped people sent into their community and world. From schools and playgrounds, to families and work places, we want to see people who are spiritual leaders in their life, showing people the truth of Christ's Good News.

## CONTACT US:

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Twitter: @YourLifeMission  
[YouTube.com/LifeMissionTV](https://www.youtube.com/LifeMissionTV)

## COMMUNITY GROUP HOMEWORK

Read **Matthew 13.53-14.12**. What stuck out to you the most or was the most impactful from the message on Sunday or from these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew divides his book up into sections. In this section, he moves from the previous teaching and now into this next narrative story in order to tie the teaching together by showing examples. How does this story of Jesus and John's rejections tie into even last week's sermon about the Kingdom's worth and selling all for the hidden treasure? \_\_\_\_\_

Read **Isaiah 5.20-23**. How does this verse paint a picture of the "wicked and perverse generation" that Jesus was speaking to? How does it reflect our generation? \_\_\_\_\_

Read the bullet points about John the Baptist and Herod. John was beheaded for speaking out against Herod's marriage, which was birthed sinfully. Read **1 Peter 4.12-14** and **1 John 3.13**. Why can we know that the world will hate us? What examples can you think of that will bring hardship upon Christians if we speak up about them? Why does the world oppose our opinions on these issues? \_\_\_\_\_

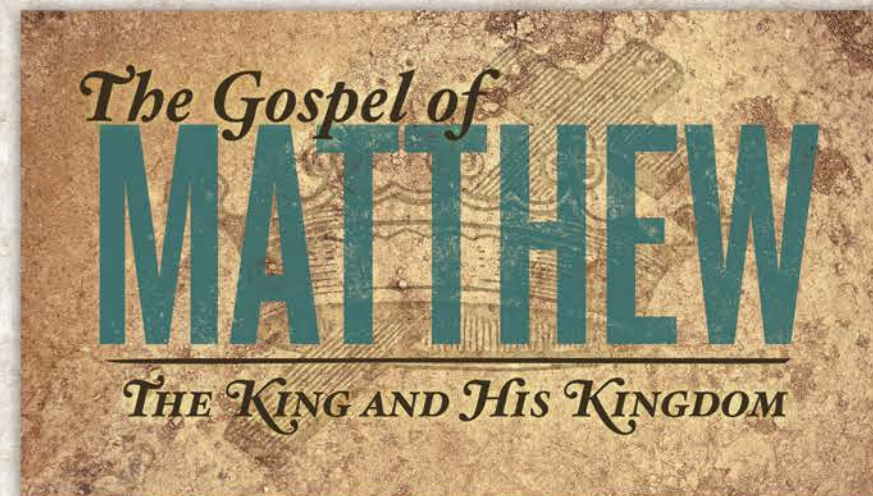
Read **Romans 1.18-32**. Paul is writing to Roman Christians. Rome was the epicenter of sinful decadence and hedonism. Summarize these opening verses; what was Paul trying to show the Roman Christians who were reading this? \_\_\_\_\_

Ultimately, we live in a world that does not want to hear the truth. The irony of that is that it is the truth alone that can set them free. This sets us up for a great challenge. Will we preach truth to those who hate truth, in order to see those truth-haters set free? Will we consider it worth the persecution and suffering? Read again in **Matthew 13.44**, the Parable of the Hidden Treasure. What adjective describes the man? Do you believe that your ultimate joy can be found in making the most of Christ, even in the face of rejection, even death? \_\_\_\_\_

Close by reading **Matthew 16.24-28**. Then, using the **P.R.A.Y.** model, spend time as a group praising God for sending His Son, Jesus, to suffer for us. Repent of your desire for comfort and sinful pleasure and apathy toward the Gospel and the mission we are called to be on. Ask Him to give you the desire for truth so that your heart would be transformed, and Yield to that transforming power of the Holy Spirit by thanking Him, acknowledging that His ways are above your ways.



Equipping a Gospel-Centered Community in the Word of God,  
To Live Out a Gospel-Centered Life Mission to the Glory of God.



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Matthew 13.53-14.12 // June 14, 2015

### 9AM & 10:45AM SERVICES

Life Mission Church Meets at Classical Academy High School  
207 E Pennsylvania Ave, Escondido 92025