

How Do You React To Christ?

Scripture

“The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand [to be] a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and [so is] also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. When they heard [that], they were cut [to the heart], and took counsel to slay them.” (Ac 5:30-33)

Commentary

The Pharisees couldn't stand Christ because He claimed to be God. Their anger was aroused because they looked for a different kind of god. They wanted a god who would serve them. They desired to have the Roman rule over them broken, and for Israel to become the dominate force in the world. They were controlled by self ambition.

However, Christ gave them a different message. His message was, “. . . My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.” (John 18:36)

Many people come to Christ looking for a fix. Something is broken, and the weight of it is more than they can handle. For many what they want fixed is a marriage, personal finances, or loneliness. There is nothing wrong with wanting these things to be right, but many will miss Christ if they only want a problem fixed. In reality, wanting a problem fixed is self-serving, and the real problem before salvation is living for self.

Christ is called the great physician, but the disease He came to cure was that of sin. Sure He healed many people, but physical healing is only temporary. Spiritual healing is what people need. Notice His words on this subject.

“And Jesus answering said unto them, they that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Lu 5:31-32)

Those who are truly repentant will see their greatest need is to be forgiven of their sin. They will see that their sin is not a temporary ailment, but an enslaving condition that dictates their behavior. They will see it is abominable to God and deserving of His wrath, and seek God's mercy.

This was not the reaction of the Pharisees. They instead sought to kill Him because He offended their sense of self-righteousness.

How do you react to Christ? Have you come to Christ on His terms, or on your terms? To answer that question you should consider what your attitude toward your own sin is. Have you truly repented, or did you just come to Christ for what you could get from Him? Are you seeking a kingdom on this world or the next, a worldly kingdom or a spiritual kingdom?

Prayer

Father, this is difficult because you often use circumstances to draw us to yourself. Please show those who have fallen short of complete repentance their need. Let them see how sin has separated them from you. Lord, you have said that if we wish to be your disciples, we must be willing to take up our cross and follow you. Give us your grace, and empower us by your Holy Spirit to do just that, amen.