



what if what happened then
changes everything now?



the easter experience

Rejection Hurts

Sitting by yourself in the lunchroom

**Hoping not to be the last one chosen
for the team at recess**

Waiting on someone to invite you to the dance

Skipped over for a promotion at work

Not being invited out with some friends



Rejection Really Hurts



They Rejected Jesus

**Isaiah Predicted the Messiah would be rejected
(Isaiah 53:1-3)**

**Of course knowing its coming and having it happen
are two different things
(Matthew 27:22-26)**



They Rejected Jesus

He was rejected by HIS people

Jesus was brought before Pilate by HIS people

Pilate couldn't find anything to bring against Him

He asks HIS people the most important question that anyone will ever answer.

“What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?”

They all answered, “Crucify him!”



They Rejected Jesus — Why?

What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But HIS people shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

Instead of answering this question for himself,
Pilate did what many people do

He looked to the crowd to answer it for him.

What did the majority of people think of Jesus?



They Rejected Jesus

**That's how he would decide
what to do with Jesus.**

**The majority opinion may be a popular
way to determine truth,
but it certainly isn't reliable.**



They Rejected Jesus

He asks the people
what they want to do with Jesus
and the people painfully reject him.

Why was Jesus so rejected?



Jesus Claimed to Be God

“Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” “You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy!



Jesus Claimed to Be God

Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” “He is worthy of death,” they answered. Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, “Prophecy to us, Messiah. Who hit you?”

This is crucial to your understanding of Christianity. Christ’s claim that he was God was a bold statement



Jesus Claimed to Be God

John 5:17 -- “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”

John 8:58 -- “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”



Jesus Claimed to Be God

John 14:9 – “Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. how can you say, “Show us the Father”?”

John 14:11 – “Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.”



The Evidence

His Complete Fulfillment of Prophecies

His Uncompromised Character

Pilate couldn't find anything to bring against Him

His Miraculous Power

His Avoidable Death

His Verifiable Resurrection

His Faithful Followers



Jesus Didn't Fit What They Wanted

**Many of the people rejected Jesus because
He didn't fit their Messiah mold.**

His kingdom was spiritual, not political

He didn't keep their religious traditions

He associated with the wrong people

**He was a threat to the authority
of the religious leaders**



Jesus Demands Life Change

While Jesus freely offers grace and forgiveness, he also requires complete surrender to him.

Jesus was constantly raising the bar when it came to our moral lives.

He didn't water down the message in hopes that people would accept him

He didn't just speak the comfortable truth. He spoke the whole truth.



Jesus Demands Life Change

People who reject Jesus often hide behind a variety of spiritual smokescreens

“The Bible is full of contradictions.”

“The church is full of hypocrites.”

“I don’t believe Jesus is really God’s Son.”

As those challenges are addressed they continue to find new ones



Jesus Demands Life Change

**The reason they are rejecting Jesus is
because they don't want to make
the changes that come when
Jesus is truly the Lord of your life**





What's Will You do with Jesus?



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