

# “Red Letter Words: Rejection”

Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:7-12

Ray Cortese, March 15/16, 2014

## Reflect on the Text

\*Note: Why do we do this first? We always want to start with the Bible itself. The goal is to meditate on the Word and read it with an ear sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Look for words or phrases that stand out through logic, repetition, layout, etc.

- Read Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:7-12. What stood out to you? What did you find interesting and/or important? What was challenging or caused you to have questions?

## Reflect on the Sermon

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 Have you ever experienced rejection?
- 2 Summarize the *Big Idea* of the sermon in **one phrase or sentence** (Note: this is not the same as listing the main points). In other words, if someone woke you up at 3am on Monday morning and asked, “What was the sermon about on Sunday?” what would you say in the midst of your sleepy haze?

### THE REALITY OF JESUS’ RESURRECTION

- 3 Ray said, “Your rejection of Jesus might just be your cultural bias.” What did he mean by that?
- 4 Most skeptics don’t reject God, but rather a false caricature of God. What parodies of God do you hear most often?

### THE RATIONALE FOR JESUS’ REJECTION

- 5 “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown.” “Familiarity breeds contempt.” Why are these statements true, and why were they true of Jesus?

- 6 With Christianity you get the redemption of the ordinary world: work, dance, play, washing dishes, etc. Have you ever thought that you would do ordinary things in the new heavens and new earth? What ordinary thing do you look forward to doing for all eternity?
- 7 What did Ray mean when he talked about the “ordinary means of salvation”? Why do people find free grace offensive?

#### THE RESPONSE TO JESUS’ REJECTION

- 8 If you engage the world like Jesus people will find you both offensive and beautiful. Why do you need to be both and not just one? Which one are you more prone to embody?
- 9 In your own words, why did Jesus experience the rejection of God? How can the gospel provide healing from even the most painful human rejection?

## **Final Reflections**

- How has your understanding, appreciation, and love for God and the gospel grown as a result of this study?
- In what areas of faith and practice are you feeling convicted by the Holy Spirit to act as a result of this study?