

# Why People Reject Jesus

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**John 5:41-47**

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So this weekend, Christians around the world, remember Palm Sunday, the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey with cloaks and palm branches covering the road. It's called Jesus' triumphal entry when Israel's king presents himself to them as their king. However, the text seems clear there's really nothing triumphal about this entry. The people there that day may have shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David. Hosanna in the highest." But based on the context and on Jesus' reaction, the people there that day missed what was going on, which is just tragic. Think about this moment the Jews had been waiting for almost 2,000 years. Their promised Messiah, their long-awaited king arrives, presents himself to them as their king and they missed it. Luke 19 says, right before riding into Jerusalem, Jesus stopped, looked at the city of Jerusalem and started weeping and he says that he's weeping because they do not know the day that he was coming to visit them. Matthew 21 says, the people thought of Jesus as "the prophet of Nazareth". A prophet, not the Messiah, and by Friday of that week, many of the thousands of people there had stopped shouting Hosanna and started screaming crucify him. It was the day Jesus came to his own people and his own people did not receive him.

The Jewish people's rejection of Jesus started with their leaders. We've been seeing what they think about Jesus in John chapter 5. In short, they wanted him dead, according to verse 18. It'll be about two more years before they get their wish, but the seeds of the plot to have Jesus killed were planted because of events like the ones we've been seeing in John chapter 5. Well, what events? So let me remind you. Jesus heals a man who's been paralyzed for 38 years, heals them obviously instantly, completely, and without the man even asking for it, which means the man did not believe in Jesus for his healing, Jesus just did it because he wanted to, because he's gracious and kind. The religious leaders find this healed man carrying his bed mat and that was a no-no. They scold him because it was the Sabbath and you can't work on the Sabbath and holding your bed while you walk down the road, that's considered work. He would've gotten in a ton of trouble, so he said it was Jesus' fault that he was carrying the mat. Jesus told them to do it. It wasn't his fault. So the Jewish leaders leave the man and they go find Jesus and they confront him and his response to them, chapter 5 verse 17 is that, If God can work on the Sabbath so can I because God's my Father. Verse 18 explains that for us, it shows that Jesus considers himself equal with God, which in their ears is blasphemy unless it's actually true.

Well, what Jesus does, starting in verse 19 all the way to verse 30, is he starts a sermon where he gives six reasons why it is true he really is the Son of God, he really is equal with God and then starting in verse 31 all the way to verse 40, he proves, he gives proof, evidence that he is the Son

of God. He doesn't just declare it; he then proves it. The Father is the great proof of that. He is the star witness on the witness stand who affirms everything Jesus is saying about himself that he is the Son of God and the Father then gives his testimony through three more witnesses, John the Baptist, Jesus miracles, and the Scriptures. Deuteronomy 19:15 demands two or three witnesses to establish something as true in a court of law and here's Jesus talking to Jewish lawyers and he gives them four witnesses. Open and shut case. He is the Son of God and as the Son of God, he is equal to God. He is deity just like the Father, and therefore he can do what the Father does like working on the Sabbath because as God, he has the same rights and privileges as the Father.

Well, if you're one of the guys there that day, what do you do with all of that? How do you process what you are hearing from this late 20s, early 30s peasant from the backwards of Galilee? He's left them with only two options, receive him as Lord or reject him as a fraud. Actually, he's left everyone with only those two options, receive Jesus as Lord in God or reject him. Our text today helps answer the question why people reject Jesus. Why do they do that? Why do people reject him? What reasons do people give?

Well, when people don't believe in Jesus, the Bible is clear on this. That responsibility for their rejection is 100% on them. It's not God's fault. It's not anyone else's fault. It's not the fault of where they grew up or how they grew up. The condemnation that falls on sinners for rejecting Christ is 100% on them. Here what Jesus does is he exposes the heart of people's rejection. Why do they do that? He stops defending himself and he goes on the offensive at the end of this sermon. The defendant is now the prosecuting attorney where Jesus exposes their sin, calls these men to repent and believe in him after he's just decimating their excuses. He's saying, If John the Baptist calls me the Son of God, if my miracles prove that I'm the Son of God, if the scriptures identify me as the Son of God, if all of that is true, his response is, just believe in me then. Your excuses as he's going to show are pathetic. They're nonsense. They're emptying the face of all the proof. So just believe. End your excuses, just believe. That's verses 41 to 47.

Now in this text, we're going to see two excuses for rejecting Jesus. Are they the only excuses that people give? No, not at all. Some people reject Jesus because of their love for sin, others because they want to be in charge of their lives and they don't want God or anybody else being in charge. These are excuses it seems that religious people tend to give. See, the religious can be the most defiant in their rejection of Jesus, and this text shows us why. Let's see the first excuse, verse 41. "I do not receive glory from people, but I know that you do not have the love of God within you." Those two verses are meant to be read together. So when we put them both together, what's going on here? Well, the one that John 2:24-25 says, knows what's going on in all people. He knows what's going on in them because he is the omniscient God. He knows, notice verse 42, he knows these men don't love God even though they would be adamant that what? They absolutely do love God; our whole life revolves around that. Everything is about God in our lives. Well, of course we love him. Jesus is saying, no, I know you better than you know yourself and you don't really love God. If they love God, verse 42, they'd seek his glory and not their own, verse 41.

Jesus is saying this in verse 41, I don't try to receive glory from people like you guys do. I don't do that, but you guys do. In other words, because they were seeking for people to give them glory, they could not also love God. Loving God means seeking glory, honor and praise and worship for him, not for themselves. But for them, religion had become all about people submitting to their authority and admiring them and praising them and just seeing how wonderfully great and holy and amazing that these men were. Serving God was all about recognition, status, admiration, even honor and praise. They chased after titles like father and rabbi to get glory. They studied the Bible to get glory. They expected to be treated by people like glory belonged to them. Devotion of God is ultimately seen and who gets the glory. In true religion it's God, God gets the glory. In false religion it's man who gets the glory. Instead of loving God, their lust for glory meant that they really loved who? Themselves. Themselves, yeah. They were using God to get glory for themselves. Think about that. They were using God to get glory for themselves.

Jesus continues, verse 43, "I have come in my Father's name and you do not receive me." In other words, I've come in my father's authority to do his will, to give him glory. That's what I'm all about. But I'm like you guys, I'm seeking his glory and because I'm seeking his glory, notice, you reject me. You don't receive me. But verse 43, "If another comes in his own name..." on his own authority, getting glory for himself, being all about himself, notice, "you will receive him." He's saying, one like you, religious leaders, one like you who comes bringing glory to himself like all of you are doing, he says, that's the kind of guy that you're going to trust in. Liars and imposters will use these guys lust for glory to flatter and deceive them, and oh, by the way, history has proven verse 43 to be a prophecy.

I've read the Jews have had as many as 70 to 80 false messiahs trick them to their own demise. Mark 13, Jesus predicted this would happen. Imposters would come claiming to be him and lead people astray and just before the end, the anti-Christ will be the final Jesus substitute that the Jews will sadly trust in. Getting glory, getting praised, getting approval from others, verse 44, is what kept these men from believing in him. "How can you believe..." You can't. "How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?" Translation. Instead of seeking the honor that comes from God, honor that would come to them for believing in Jesus. Instead, they sought glory and honor for themselves. They could not deal with the ridicule and rejection that would've come their way for believing in Jesus because in the end, it's one or the other. Love for God and self-glorification are two motives that will always be at war. It's one or the other. So what does this have to do with why people reject Christ?

Well, the first reason people reject Jesus is point #1) they refuse to ***Reject People's Approval***. They refuse to ***reject Jesus' approval***. Like these men, they replace what some people will think about them if they become a follower of Jesus. They use that and replace Jesus with approval. They will not risk the ridicule or the disappointment from a person or group of people they crave acceptance from. So they take that acceptance and they reject Jesus in order to keep it. John

12:43, speaking of the Jewish leaders who ultimately rejected Jesus, it says they did so because "they sought the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God." Mark 15:15 says, the reason Pilate rejected Jesus and had him handed over to be crucified was he wished "to satisfy the crowd." He did what the crowd wanted him to do. Instead of doing what was right, which was letting this innocent man go, he did that to satisfy the crowd and sadly, the same thing happens when people do not reject other people's approval. Living for people's approval in the Bible is called the fear of men, and at the heart of fear is control so that what you are afraid of controls you.

So, let's say you're eating dinner and a spider shows up and you're afraid of spiders. In that moment, it controls your thoughts, your actions, your emotions, maybe even your mouth, all with the goal of what? Getting away from that spider, being safe, safety from the spider. Well, the fear of men works the same way. Other people controlling your thoughts, your actions, your emotions, your decisions, all with the goal of maximizing their approval and minimizing their disapproval of you because in their approval is safety. Safety from ridicule, safety from conflict, safety from rejection, safety from not being accepted anymore. Now, question, does being a people pleaser mean you have no conflict, rejection or ridicule? No. Sometimes it leads to even more conflict. Well, Proverbs 29:25 says, "The fear of man lays a snare." It's a trap. It promises safety, but it doesn't deliver. However, the verse continues, "But whoever trust in the Lord is safe." Safety is not found in people pleasing. It's not found in living our lives to do what other people want us to do. Safety is found in trusting God by doing what he wants us to do regardless of what people might think about us, regardless of the outcome.

Now, this is not only true in life, but going back to John chapter 5, this is also true for eternity because people's approval can keep people from the safety of salvation. Why? Because they'll choose other people's approval over believing in Christ and being saved. That's because in an ultimate sense, people's approval can become a God the one people live for, the thing that people live to please, which if you just scratch under the surface a little bit, really the one getting the attention and approval is you. To Jesus' point here is that seeking glory from others for yourself or giving God glory reveals who your God really is. Your God is who you live to get glory, honor and praise for. It's either God or it's you. Living for people's approval simply reveals that you are your own god, which is why verse 42, Jesus says they don't really love God. They love themselves instead of God, which is why they won't believe in him. They have what they want. They have people's approval. I mean, what do they need Jesus for? Think about how tragic this actually is. Well, God so loved humanity. Humanity by and large rejects Jesus because we love ourselves instead, and this pride, this love for self is seen as living for people's approval and rejecting him.

The fear of man, people pleasing, living for people's approval is a handle coming out of your back. Flattery, attention, praise, honor is those people grabbing that handle and turning it wherever their opinion or their praise will take you. So for some, it'll take you right into sin. I don't want to disappoint this person. They want me to sin, but they're my friend. What do I do

God? It takes you right into sin. For others, it'll take you right into false teaching. That's what 43 says. The guy that comes along flattering you, being all about his glory just like you guys, take you right away from God into deception. I mean, if I do that, if I go down that road, I'll be telling grandma that her whole view is wrong and I can't do that. So, I just got to go along with it for a while. For others it'll be all of that and then some also that people won't be mad at you, also that people won't think less of you, also that people won't think you're great. Jesus says here it can even take you away from believing in him and being saved from the punishment you deserve for all of your sin.

In light of this, if people are going to believe in Jesus and be saved from their sins, instead of rejecting Jesus, they must Reject People's Approval. You reject Jesus by loving people's approval. You Reject People's Approval when you love Jesus and realize that he is better than anyone's approval. If people's praise, their approval, their good opinion of you is what's keeping you from giving your life to Jesus, you must reject their approval. I mean, whose opinion is worth more than forgiveness for all of your sins truly. Whose opinion is worth more than eternal life? Whoever that person is, they're your god, and really, you're your own god, which is why you want to keep your approval, because their approval is worship to you.

You can't let them stop worshiping you, so you hold onto their approval as it drags you into rebellion, and if you're not careful, ultimately drags you into hell. Got to keep their approval. So Jesus forget you and what you say, I got to keep this person. It's foolish and suicidal to hold onto people's approval and reject Jesus. No one's opinion of you can possibly be better than full approval and eternal acceptance from Christ the only one that truly matters. Is it truly? If God is for you, Romans 8:31, who cares? Who cares who's against you? Instead of being controlled by the opinions of others, trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be safe. Safe from the punishment you deserve for your sins, safe forever. Then after salvation for the rest of your life, fight against the fear of man, with the fear of the Lord. What does that mean? That's maximize his approval, minimize his disapproval. In other words, live your life knowing that God is watching. Let that fact control your thoughts and your emotions and your actions and your decisions. The first decision being to trust in Christ. Then after salvation at 2 Corinthians 5:9, you make it your goal, your desire, your ambition to be pleasing to Christ. Wait, you forgave all of my sin and perfectly accept me? My life now belongs to you and I live it to please you. Not to be pleasing to people who want nothing more than for you to be displeasing to Christ.

If you think about it, insane depravity is being allowed to take over our culture because good people, even Christians, are afraid of what people will think about them. Terrified. Terrified. We just hope it all go away. So we won't be called racist, bigot, some kind of phobic. But listen, if in Christ you have the eternal smile of God, who cares who rejects you? They are not worth more than Christ.

Now, Jesus exposes a second reason why people reject him starting in verse 45, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father." He takes them to their judgment day when his approval will be all that matters. But on that day, in the previous messages, we learned that he will be the

judge, but they will be shocked who the prosecuting attorney is going to be. Verse 45, "There is one who accuses you, Moses, on whom you have set your hope." Wait, Moses, the one whose writings they lived to obey, the one whose writings they were trusting in to earn their place in heaven? He goes, yeah, Moses is going to be the guy. The word accuse there, the second use of that word is a present tense, meaning that they aren't just waiting for him to prosecute them and show that they are guilty before God's throne. He's saying, no, he's doing that to you now. Well, how is he doing that to them now? Verse 46, "For if you believed Moses, you would believe me because he wrote about me." In other words, if obeying Moses' writings is causing people to reject Jesus, then Moses is prosecuting them because he wrote what he did ultimately so that people would believe in Jesus not reject him.

Now, as an aside, I want you to notice something in the text. Jesus said that Moses wrote about Jesus. Not some anonymous writers who disguised themselves as Moses and wrote the first five books, but actually Moses. See, maybe you know this, maybe you don't, but generations of Bible schools have taught and some are still teaching to this day the failed idea that Moses did not write the first five books. Somebody else did, a whole group of people did. They got together and wrote this whole thing, but it wasn't, certainly could not, was not Moses. He's a figment of imagination if he ever lived at all. If that's true, then look at verse 46 again. If that's true, then Jesus is wrong. If that's true, verse 47, where he talks about Moses's writings, Moses didn't really have any writings if these scholars are right and Jesus is wrong.

If we can't trust Jesus for that, if he's just mistaken or if he's pretending for his audience that Moses wrote these books, but he really knew that Moses didn't write them, but he is just letting them... he's just speaking something that that's not going to cause them to stumble, like he was really worried about that. If that's the case and Moses really didn't write anything, then how can we trust Jesus for anything then? Well, we can't and if this is true, he can't be anyone's savior either. Why? Because he either wouldn't be sinless, meaning he's lying to them, or he wouldn't be the Godman who knows all things. So in the end, Jesus' entire life, death and resurrection, hinges on whether Moses had writings because Jesus said Moses wrote about him.

Now, back to the text. They can't hope in Moses to defend. They set their hope on him, but they can't do that. He's not going to defend them. He's going to charge them with sin before the Father, verse 45, because he wrote about Jesus, but they refused to believe in him, verse 46. Well, when I see those words in verse 46, "He wrote of me," my thought was, well, where did he write about Jesus in the first five books of the Old Testament? Well, Genesis 13:15, Genesis 22:17-18. Genesis 49:10, Numbers 24:17, Deuteronomy 18:15-18. If you're like, man, I wish you said that slower, I put it in your notes. So you're good. It's all in your notes. Now, those are specific verses, but then add to that, that he is the promised descendant of Abraham who will bless the world. Add to that things like the Passover lamb, the water from the rock, the manna from heaven, as well as the sacrifices and the tabernacle and the priesthood all in Moses' writings. All predict Christ, point to Christ and proclaim Christ.

If you're doing the Bible reading plan with us, you read Deuteronomy 32 a couple days ago, where Moses' writings point to Christ because even though the Jews said they would obey God's rules, we will obey, we will obey, we will obey. Time and time again in Deuteronomy, God and Moses both say, oh, no, you're not going to obey. Because the law was given to crush the disobedient, crush them to bring them humbly to trust in God's mercy as ultimately expressed in Christ. Obeying God's law is not how anyone would actually achieve their own salvation. All of that, and then some is why Jesus ends this sermon with a heart-searching even offensive question for those listening to him that day. "But if you do not believe Moses' writings, how will you believe my words?" They're like, wait a minute. We believe Moses, we are the believers in Moses on the whole earth. They're trusting in him and obeying his writings for their salvation and he's saying, you guys don't understand Moses because if you really thought he was right in what he said, you would trust in the one that his writings were pointing to, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is who Moses said the Messiah would be, nothing Jesus said contradicts anything Moses wrote. So, to believe Moses is right is to believe in Jesus, but these guys refused.

Like so, so many, they reject Christ because point #2) They Refused to ***Reject Personal Goodness. They refused to reject personal goodness.*** What do they need to be saved for? They were good people after all. They did the right things. They didn't do the wrong things. They obeyed and because they obeyed, they were good. They didn't need salvation. They didn't need Jesus. They're doing it on their own. Thank you, Jesus, for all of that, but I got this. The Bible's clear. It's either salvation by your goodness or salvation by Christ's goodness, his perfect divine righteousness. There is no middle ground. Romans 10:3 says that through obedience, people are "seeking to establish their own goodness." Well, think about that for a second. Who are they establishing their goodness for? Well, in one sense, they're establishing it for themselves because they have a throbbing conscience that says, oh, you're a sinner, you've done a lot of bad things. They're like, no, no, no, I did a lot of good things and my good things kind of cover over that. I didn't really do that, no, no, I'm a good person."

So in one sense, it's establishing righteousness for themselves, but in another sense, it's establishing their own goodness with others, others who they hope see them as a good person. I really want you to like me and think I'm great. I'm a good person. However, ultimately, they're trying to establish their own goodness with God. See, God, I'm a good person. I know I've done a lot of bad things, but don't look at that. I've done a lot of good things. Because I've done a lot of good things, God, you shouldn't punish me for my sin. Let's pretend that didn't even happen. I should be in heaven because look, I'm a good person. I'm not like Hitler. I'm a good person. It's a high standard there.

Romans 3:20 says that by the works of the law, no flesh, no person, no one will be justified in God's sight. No one will go to heaven. No one will be accepted by God. No one will ever be right with him based on obedience to Old Testament rules or any other system of rules. It's not only impossible because Romans 3:23 says, "All sinned and are continually falling short of God's standard, God's glory," but it's also blasphemous because Galatians 2:21 says, "If righteousness

comes through obedience to the law, then Christ died needlessly." If you can guard your way into heaven, then Jesus' life, death, and resurrection that we're going to celebrate this week was for absolutely nothing. In fact, we should actually celebrate you. Again, the issue is worship. If I earn my salvation by my obedience and Jesus makes up for where I sinned, then both he and I deserve worship. Why? Because he and I produce my salvation. Him by his death and resurrection, me by my obedience, Jesus then becomes an added benefit to what I'm accomplishing. He isn't the only Savior. He and I are the saviors, which is blasphemy.

See, Moses' writings verse 45, accuse the men Jesus was speaking to in John 5, and they accuse all who don't reject their goodness because the law shows that no one can even come close to living up to God's standards. Not only don't we live up to God's standards, but we don't even want to and because we don't even want to, we actually don't, we can't live up to his standards. Deep down we don't want to anyways. We want to live by our standards. We don't want anybody telling us what to do. We are in charge. Who does this God person think he is telling me what I can do? I tell me what to do. I tell him what to do.

People, especially religious people who reject Jesus as their savior are trying to establish themselves as their own savior with their works being the ticket they hope God punches to let them into heaven. However, the good works, the good intentions, the goodness people think they have will actually condemn them. Condemn them for not being good enough. Why? Because to be good enough to live where God lives, you have to be as good as God is. His eyes are too pure to look at evil. He cannot approve of wrong, and you can't bring any of that into heaven. Can't bring any of it because in heaven there's only perfect sinless perfection. Your good works can't cancel your sin no matter how many good works you have. Your sin is what keeps you out of heaven, and so do your good works, by the way, done with selfish motives like to get attention, like to get praised, like to get approval, not done purely to honor God or love people. When we really dig into our good works, we realize that we don't really have a lot of good works at the end of the day.

The story is told of an old pirate who attacked a vessel with tons and tons of gold and that was successful. So as they were escaping the vessel attack, the pirate ship dealt a death blow with cannonballs piercing the hole and the pirate ship rapidly began to sink. The other pirates, they scrambled for safety, but not that old pirate. He tied bags of gold to himself hoping to jump overboard and swim to shore. After a short struggle, the last, as men saw him, he was sinking to the bottom, filthy rich with all his gold. People's sense of their own goodness if it is not rejected for Christ will be like that gold, not lifting anybody up to heaven, but sinking them down to hell under their way to their own pride. In the end, if people are going to believe in Jesus and be saved from their sins, instead of rejecting Jesus, they must **Reject Personal Goodness**. They must.

Romans 10:4, Jesus is, "The end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes." The law is obsolete. Why? Because Romans 4:5, "To the one who does not work to earn a salvation by his goodness, to the one who does not work but believes in Jesus who justifies the ungodly, his



faith is credited as righteousness." I read that fast with some passion, but don't miss those four words. Jesus justifies the ungodly, not the good, not the obedient, not the holy, not the godly. He justifies, he forever accepts, he eternally is right with those and only with those who believe in him. You see, it's one or the other. Either you earn your salvation by your goodness, or you reject your goodness to believe in Jesus. There is no other way.

Titus 3:5 seal the deal on this. God "saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness." Say that again. "God saved us not because of works done by us in righteous." Then why does he save us? "But according to his own mercy." Mercy for sinners, that's what this whole thing is all about. Salvation is not a paycheck that God owes anybody. Romans 6:23, it is a free gift based 100% on trusting in Jesus to save you, not trusting your goodness to save you and why is that? In the words of Ephesians 2:9 it's so that no one can boast, so that you can't boast in your obedience, boast that you saved yourself by your goodness. You can't earn your salvation because salvation is 100% to the praise of God's glorious grace, not us. So if you're here today and up until this moment you've rejected Christ, could it be that like the men in our text today, Jesus has exposed your excuses too. There are people that you would disappoint, people who would mock you, people whose approval you can't live without, and that's why you're not a Christian right now. Oh, the kindness of God that you would be here to hear this reject their approval. It's not worth it. God's approval, having his acceptance, being right with him through trusting in Jesus to save you from all of your sin, all of that is better than anybody's approval.

Or have you been banking on your goodness to be your ticket into heaven? Is all your hope and life and death and your obedient adherence to an organization or to a system or to a person so that you've set your hope on that instead of Christ alone? Listen, if you're hoping to be good enough for God to accept you, I have great news for you. You can't be, but Jesus was, and he will give you all of his goodness. He will replace all of your sin with all of his goodness if you would simply give your life to him. The crowds on Palm Sunday missed Jesus. Don't let people's approval or your own personal goodness make you miss Jesus too. Come to him and be saved.

Now, Christian, today our Lord has not just been the savior in our text, but he has also been the rabbi. What do I mean by that? Well, you thought I was talking to you about stuff that you already know. Can't earn your salvation. Yea, I know that. But what we're doing is actually training you on how to talk to the non-Christians that you know and love who desperately want to be saved. What do I mean? Well, Jesus exposes the non-believer for us in this text. He shows us the two most effective reasons why people reject him. Why the people in your life, the people that you know and love reject him. You can go to them now with these two excuses in the back of your mind, with this equipping that Jesus gives us in John chapter 5 and say, okay, I know this conversation could go in one of these two directions, and if it does, I'm ready because Jesus equipped me from this text to share the truth with the people I know and love who need him. So this text, like every text, is Jesus the Savior and Jesus the Rabbi, teaching his people the truth so that we can take that truth and be a blessing to others. Now, Curtis is going to come back up here. We're going to take communion in a minute, but before we do that, let's pray.

Jesus, your people read texts like this and we need the surgeon-like precision that cut through all the excuses in these men's heart and got them down to their very core, or they either receive you as Lord and God or reject you. No excuses can stand in the face of your perfect matchless wisdom in this text. So you are the savior to sinners, even sinners like this that want to kill you, you offer them eternal life if they would believe in you and yet, every text in the Bible also equips us to live for you, equips your people to live for you and so you as the Rabbi teach us, your followers, how to live for you through texts like this. As we go back into our world, our homes, our neighborhoods or jobs or schools, places we hang out, whatever it is, as we go back into that world, this text, text like this, give us a grid. It gives us wisdom to understand people with the wisdom that you had about people so that we can share you, share the truth in ways that are effective and helpful. So thank you for equipping us to minister, to serve the people that we know and love. Use us for that, I pray, for the glory of your name. Amen.