



2016: Week 12

Sunday, March 20th 2016

"How Do You Receive Jesus?"

Romans 9:30–32

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing a righteousness, did not arrive at that law. ³² Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone..." (NASB).

On Sunday, John preached from various passages in the New Testament, each identifying the reasons why so many people rejected Jesus during His public ministry. John highlighted the irony of a Jewish Messiah being rejected by so many Jews while at the same time being received and worshipped by so many Gentiles.

1. READ John 1:11

- Can you remember why so many of Jesus' "own" did not receive Him? What was it about Jesus that bothered so many people?

- What is it about Jesus that bothers so many people today?

2. READ John 1:12

- How can a person "receive" Jesus today? What does it mean to "believe in His name"?

- Within the Church around the world, this week is often referred to as "Holy Week" or the "Passion Week." During this time the Church remembers the week that began with Palm Sunday and culminated with the first day of the next week, Resurrection Sunday or Easter Sunday. We can thank the Lord for Jesus' sacrifice at any time during the year, but this can be an especially meaningful time to reflect upon Jesus' sufferings, His death on the cross, and His resurrection from the dead.

What do Jesus' sufferings, His death, and His resurrection mean to you?

3. In John 1:12, the one who receives Jesus is considered a "child of God." People often refer to their children as their offspring. In God's eyes, if you have personally trusted Him and His plan for your salvation, you are His spiritual offspring.

- How should knowing that you are God's spiritual offspring impact the way you live your life? How does it impact the way you live your life?

- Are there areas in your life that you would like to change today?

FAMILY PRAYER: If you have responded to God's plan of salvation through Christ, thank the Lord for His eternal forgiveness of your sins. Thank God the Father for sending His Son into the world. Thank God the Son for dying in your place and for your sins. Thank God the Holy Spirit for inspiring Scripture and for opening your eyes to the truth of its message. Ask the Lord to help you make changes in your life that need to occur.