

Sub-title for the Bible could be—**The story of an unwanted God who keeps pursuing the un-wanting heart.**

Jeremiah 2:13

My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.

Isaiah 53:3

He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

John 1:11

He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

The Jews reject him. His hometown rejects him. The religious leaders reject him.

The Roman authorities reject him.

Matthew 13:54-58

54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. "Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?" they asked. 55 "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?" 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town and in his own home." 58 And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Nazareth – a heart of rejection that's grounded in...

➤ **Overfamiliar**

John 7:26-27

26 "...Have the authorities really concluded that he is the Messiah? 27 But we know where this man is from; when the Messiah comes, no one will know where he is from."

Nazareth says, "We want your teachings, your miracles...we just don't want you!"

Caution: Be careful you don't toss Jesus out because He isn't meeting your expectations
Be careful that your conclusions about God don't cloud your ability to see what Jesus is doing right in front of you

➤ **Offended** – "And they took offense at him." (v. 57)

In Luke 4, Jesus quotes from *Isaiah 61* but he leaves off the last part of the verse.

Luke 4:19

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor

Jesus leaves off the rest of Isaiah 61:2...and the day of vengeance of our God

Jews wanted their Messiah to drive out their enemies.

-- They want their *personal* Messiah, to deal with their *personal* problems, and bring vengeance on their *personal* enemies.

Caution: Keep your eyes on your own sheet of paper

Becoming offended at how Jesus is pouring out his grace on *others* while missing what He wants to do in *you*



➤ **Drives him out**

Luke 4:24,29-30

24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown..."

29 They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff. 30 But he walked right through the crowd and went on his way.

We know what we want, and it's not you. We're living in Nazareth.

The data continues to stream in—we are the most enslaved, anxious, medicated generation to ever live. Driving God out of the center of everything has left us *formless and empty* .

"Without God, what am I but a guide to my own destruction?" – St. Augustine

- Where am I experiencing "formless and empty" in my life these days?**
-- Is this exposing an area where God is no longer the center

- Am I keeping my eyes on my own sheet of paper?**
-- How has spiritual pride clouded my vision of what Jesus is doing in me?

- Have I been pushing away a tug/whisper from the Holy Spirit?**
-- I know God has been speaking to me about _____, yet I resist/ignore/deny

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