



Matthew 10:34

"I came not to bring peace but, a sword."

*Jesus will unsettle our inner lives
and our outer relationships.*

We are identified not only by who stands with us but also by who stands against us.

John 17

"¹⁴ I have given them Thy word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵ I do not ask Thee to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; Thy word is truth. ¹⁸ As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world."

Matthew 28

"¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Handling rejection

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | 2. |
| "Home court disadvantage" | "Shake the dust off your feet" |

Mark 6:1-5

Mark 6: 6-13

Mark 6

"¹ And He went out from there, and He came into His home town; and His disciples followed Him. ² And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such miracles as these performed by His hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, and brother of James, and Joses, and Judas, and Simon? Are not His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at Him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his home town and among his own relatives and in his own household." ⁵ And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And He wondered at their unbelief. And He was going around the villages teaching."

Mark 6

"⁷ And He summoned the twelve and began to send them out in pairs; and He was giving them authority over the unclean spirits; ⁸ and He instructed them that they should take nothing for their journey, except a mere staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belt; ⁹ but to wear sandals; and He added, "Do not put on two tunics." ¹⁰ And He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave town. ¹¹ And any place that does not receive you or listen to you, as you go out from there, shake off the dust from the soles of your feet for a testimony against them." ¹² And they went out and preached that men should repent. ¹³ And they were casting out many demons and were anointing with oil many sick people and healing them."

The pit of popularity

Satan tempts us to find our faith, hope, & love in anything and everything but God.

- ✓ Our spiritual insecurity sets us up for a toxic need of popularity.
- ✓ Our personalizing the offense of the Gospel makes us vulnerable to “compromising it.”
- ✓ The offense of the cross makes us vulnerable to the pressure of culture inclusivity, radical pluralism, and toxic tolerant.

Going on or going home?

Rejection is not something we can always control but our response to it is.

- ✓ We have not identified with Christ until we have shared his rejection.
- ✓ A test of faith is seen in how much of our security is in Christ and how much is in the response of this world.
- ✓ There are many excuses to “go home” but none of them are of faith.

Example
of Jesus being **IN** but not **OF**
the world.

Our security is not in this world’s
response to us or the Gospel
therefore rejection means
going on not going home.

Why we are NEVER the best advertisement for the Gospel.

- ✓ Like John the Baptist, we must decrease that Christ may increase.
- ✓ The Gospel is about a Good Shepherd not about good sheep.
- ✓ That which we win people to will become the focus of their faith, hope, and love.

1 Peter 3:15

“¹⁵ but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶ and keep a good conscience so that in the things in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.”

Dealing with rejection

What does it mean to shake the dust off your feet?

- ✓ In Jesus’ day this phrase meant - treat as defiled and defiling.
- ✓ You can’t shake off unless you go out.
- ✓ Be sure that the offense is the Gospel not your manners.
- ✓ Shaking off means respecting people’s right to say “No!” and moving on.
- ✓ Shaking off means going on not going home.

Lessons for us today

1. Give the world something to respond to other than you.
2. When rejected, go on don’t go home?
3. Cultivate a relaxed faith attitude toward ministry.
4. Christ was willing to be rejected for you. Willingly share his rejection.