

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 17 January 2020
Services: *Across the diocese*
Series: John's Prologue
Title: Jesus: reject or receive him
Passages: John 1:10-13
Aim: To show the irony and sadness of the world not recognising and the Jews not receiving Jesus.
And to excite and overwhelm people at the amazing wonder of God's love that those who receive him are given the authority to become God's children.

Outline:

1. "We don't know you"
2. "We don't want you"
3. "We receive you"

- This is week 3, in a 4-week series on the opening 18 verses of John's Gospel, which we know as the **Prologue** to the gospel...
- And what we've seen so far is that Jesus had a **past**...
- What I mean by that is, that **before** Jesus put on **skin** and **stepped** into our **world**... he was **with** God in the **beginning**... he was with God – and he was God!
- And John calls him the "**Word**" because he is **wonderfully** God-**speaking** to us... //
- ...We also discovered that the whole **universe** – absolutely **everything** was made **through** him...
- And that his **life** – because he is the **source** of all life and the very **essence** of life – his life is **light** for this world's **darkness**... and as **dark** as this world's **darkness is**... it can **never overcome or crush** the **light** which is **Jesus'** light!
- **I hope you've loved seeing what we've seen so far...! ////**
- in today's passage, we see the great **irony**... the very deep **sadness**....
- ...that here was God himself was stepping into the world to declare his love... to reveal himself... // but that the world which was made **through** him... didn't **recognise** him!
- But there's a **further** sadness – and irony in this...
-that even though he came to his own **people**... to **Israel** – to the **Jews** /// they did not **receive** him... //
-so we need to explore sad realities a little more **closely** – and here is how we are going to do that – **two** headings:
 1. "We don't **know** you"
 2. "We don't **want** you"
- first

1. WE DON'T KNOW YOU

- v10 - *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him*
- He **created** the world...
- But the **world** didn't **recognise** him... didn't **know** him – didn't **want** to know him. //
- And you might say... well hang on Mark – its not surprising – he turned up as a little baby - how **would** have recognised him?
- But here's the thing - even when he came on to the public stage... even when he grew **up** and went

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public... they didn't **know** – didn't **want** to **know**

- Even though he showed the **exact** same **authority** as he had at the **beginning** of time...
- Do you recall... God had said '**let there be light**' and there **was** light...?
- And then he turns **up** and stands on **planet earth** (which he **made**) and says to **storms** '**stop**' they **do**; to **water** 'turn into wine' and it **does**;
to **paraplegics** 'walk' and they **do**;
to **blind people** 'see' and they **do**;
to a small **meal** 'multiply' and it **does**;
even to the **dead** : '**get up**' and they **do**...! //
- Even though all of that happens - he **speaks** and **creation obeys**...
- ...everything you'd **expect** from the **creator** of the **world**.... – if they **turned up**! //
- It all that had no **impact**... //
- They remained **blind** to who Jesus was... //
- *He was in the world, and although the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him //*
- And **today**? //
- Jesus is not **physically** here doing those things...
- But wonderfully... we have all the eyewitness accounts from 1st century...
- But people say – “they're just made up”
- Or – we're too **modern** and **sophisticated** in our **scientific discovery** of the world to believe that any of that stuff could actually **happen**.... //
- We know **better**... we know **more**... we've **evolved** from those **primitive** views...
- ...and so **TODAY'S** world... doesn't **know**....
- ...and doesn't **want** to know...
- ...that the **creator** has turned **up**
- ...that there's **someone** who **made** the world...
- ...that there's someone to whom they are **accountable**...
- **Created** by him... all that is **beautiful** and **wonderful** and **glorious** in **creation** and **human life** came from **him** – from his **love**, from his **power** – from his **creativity**...
- But the world doesn't **want** to know its **creator**... //
- It didn't when he **turned** up... and it doesn't **now**! /////
- But in these verses there's **more** sadness – greater **irony**...
- that the world at **large** said – “we don't **know** you...” is one thing... **but** //
- ... but his own **people** have said....

2. **WE DON'T WANT YOU**

- v11 – have a look with me - *He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.*
- Ie... he came to the **Jews** – he came to **Israel**...
- He came to his very own people who had been **promised** a Messiah – many of whom were **looking** for a Messiah – **waiting** – **longing**... for the one in the line of King **David** of old who had been promised...

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- ...and yet – they didn't **want** him.
 - They didn't **believe** his **claims**; they accused him of **blasphemy**; even his own **family** thought he was **mad**...
 - And at **every point** he clashed with the **Jewish religious leaders**.
 - In this Gospel of **John** – you see this clash all the way through... let me show you...
 - In **chapter 2** when he **clears** the **temple**... he's immediately **questioned** about his authority...
 - In **chapter 5** he's in trouble for **healing** on the **Sabbath**
 - In **chapter 6**, they object to Jesus saying he'd come from **heaven** and even some who **had** been disciples, decide to walk away
 - By **chapter 7**, they are looking for a way to **kill** Jesus! – some try to **seize** him but are unable to lay a hand on him...
 - **Chapter 8** – they pick up **stones** to **stone** him!
 - **Chapter 9** – clash over a **blind** man Jesus healed
 - **Ch 11** – there's another plot to **kill** Jesus
 - **13-18** – Jesus teaches his disciples that he will soon be leaving them...
 - **Ch 19** – he's arrested... it's the **beginning** of the end...
 - ... and you know how it ended...! //
 - He came to that which was his **own** and his own, **BUT** his own; **did not receive him**... but **INSTEAD**, – **THEY CRUCIFIED HIM!**
 - “We don't **want** you...”
 - We don't **accept** you're from God
 - You're an **impostor**... you're a **blasphemer**... you're of the **devil**...
 - You're **not** the **Messiah**; you're not **from God** and you're **NOT God**... //
 - ...so we're going to **rid** ourselves of you! ////
 - Jews **today** – **still** do not **receive** him...
 - They **refuse** to read the New Testament documents... refuse to **contemplate** Jesus may have been the promised **Messiah**... and they're **still waiting**... for him to come...
 - He's **come**... come for **them**... **died** for them... been raised again in **power** – but **still**... **they do not receive him**... //
 - He **made** the **world** – but creation didn't recognise its **creator**
 - Came to his own **people** – to the **chosen ones** – but his **own** didn't want their **Messiah**.... //
 - **It's Ironic** and **tragic**.... ///
 - But it's not the **end** of the **story**! ///
 - We don't **know** you, we don't **want** you; but – I have a third and final point... - Because there **were** some who said:
3. **WE RECEIVE YOU**
- Have a look with me at vv12-13 - *yet to all who **did** receive him, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God** – ¹³ children born not of **natural descent**, or of **human decision***

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*or a **husband's will**, but born of **God**. //*

- Right throughout the history of Israel's rebellion against God, there were those **few** who remained faithful – often referred to as the **faithful remnant**.
- And the same is so when God **stepped into** our world.
- Although the world at **large** did not **recognise** him...
- ...and although his **own people as a whole** did not **receive** him...
- ...there **were** those who **DID!** ///
- And again if you work your way through John's gospel... we see people **believing... receiving**
- Ch 1 – **Nathanael** said – “you are the Son of God”
- Ch 2 after the wedding in Cana – we read his disciples **believed** in him
- ...and towards the end of that same chapter we read his disciples **believed** the **Scripture** and the words that Jesus had spoken (2:22) and many people saw the **signs** Jesus was doing and **believed** in his **name** (2:23).
- **Ch 4** – the Samaritan woman and many from her town believed Jesus and said *we know that this man really is the **Saviour** of the **world***. (4:42)
- **Ch 7** even as many try to **seize** him, we read that *many in the crowd **believed** in him* (7:31).
- The temple guards who were meant to bring Jesus in, **DIDN'T** bring him! The reason? – *no one has ever spoken the way this man does*. (7:46)
- **Ch 8** – after a dispute about who Jesus is we read (in v30), *Even as he spoke, many **believed** in him*
- **Ch 10** – after a **further** conflict about what Jesus was saying about himself – we read (in v42) *And in that place many **believed** in him*
- **Ch 12** – just after raising of Lazarus - *the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going **over** to Jesus and **believing** in him*. ///
- We'll stop there - but you get the idea... **opposition** – **plotting** and **threatening** to **kill** Jesus... but all the way along the way – people **believing** him...
- And John says **here** – back now to Ch 1 – *to all who **did** receive him, to those who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God***
- Receive him as **Lord** – trust in him as **Saviour**... and where do you end up? **A child of God!**
- Made his by **adoption** and **grace**
- With the **status** and **certainty** and **confidence** of a **child** of our **Heavenly Father!** ////
- entirely **God's** work – it's not about being born into a certain **family**... it's not about a **parental decision**... but rather the child of God is **born of God**... //
- And this means several important things...
- **It means that you know who you are**... in a world where people are doing all sorts of things just to try and find **acceptance** or be **welcomed** or discover their **true self** – if you've **received** Jesus and **believed** in him – you **know**... you **know** who you **are**... you have **confidence** that you're a **child of God** – a **child** of the **King** – a child of our **heavenly Father!**
- **AND** – **you know where you stand**... there's certainty when you're approaching the end of your life: **because** you're **already** his child – you've be **welcomed** into his home – and will be welcomed into his home... John 14 – a mansion with many rooms – when you die or Jesus returns... there's a **place** for you in **eternity** – no **questions** – no **doubts**...

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- So you know who you **are** – you know where you stand...
- ...and **you know your mission in life...** //
- Many people trying today to discover their **significance** – what they are **here** for – how can they be **useful**; how they can make a **difference**...
- ... as a child of God – that's all laid **out** for you – you're to be an **ambassador** for your **Father**... you're to bear the family name; you're to bare the family resemblance... to show the family characteristics...
- To **shine** your **light**... to live that **radically different life**... to live like you're a **child** of the **King** of Kings – with the **priorities** and **passions** and **commitments** and **desires** of the **new Kingdom!** //
- **Who am I?**
- If you're a Christian watching today – you **know!!**
- That's **settled!**
- You're a **child of God!!**
- Because he **loves** you.
- And he's **rescued** you from **sin and death** through the **death** and **resurrection** of his **Son**...
- **Revel** in that **today** – this **week** – this **month** – a **child** of the **King**... can you imagine!?!? ////
- *He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become **children of God.***