



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, 09/29/2021

Scripture: Colossians 4:10-12

TITLE: From Rejection to Reception

Jesus said, “A prophet is rejected in his own hometown.” I never used to give that much thought until I experienced that in my own life.

It’s sad when the people you love and care for rejecting you and your message. But it happens all the time. It makes you sad on the one hand. But on the other, you’re thankful for the ones who accept you and follow you no matter where you go.

The Apostle Paul knew both sides of the coin. In fact, here’s what Paul says about this in Colossians 4:10-11 (NLT).

“Aristarchus, who is in prison with me, sends you his greetings, and so does Mark, Barnabas’s cousin. As you were instructed before, make Mark welcome if he comes your way. Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been!”

Paul is wrapping up his letter to the Colossian church. He’s covered a lot of ground. In case you forgot, he was writing to combat some false teaching about Christ. False teachers were distorting the identity and nature of Christ. They were distorting the gospel, and its power. So Paul has been setting the record straight. He’s talked both theology and practice. And now, he is closing up the letter by mentioning some of his closest companions.

He mentions Aristarchus, who is in prison with him. Aristarchus was a Jewish believer. He was a fellow Jew, like Paul. Paul knew rejection from the people he led and loved. They rejected his new calling and his savior Jesus Christ. It’s so discouraging to know that the people we’re closest to can and may reject our faith and our savior. But it didn’t deter Paul or his friend.

Aristarchus was a fellow prisoner. He wasn’t a convicted prisoner. He was a voluntary prisoner with Paul, a true friend through thick and thin.

This was the opposite of Mark that Paul mentions here. Mark was by Paul’s side with Barnabus. That is until times got tough. He exited stage left to Jerusalem. But Mark changed his mind and returned to his friend. To think God won’t use us after our failures is a lie. This Mark who ditched Paul was the same Mark who would write one of the gospels. What will he do with you?

Last, Paul mentions Justus, who we know little about. Except he was one of the few Jews who recognized Jesus as the Messiah. So Paul and his friends were rejected by their people but embraced and comforted by Christ and His family.

So here's my challenge for you: be a comfort and an encouragement to someone around you. Jesus said we would be rejected because He was rejected first. Jesus said, ["Do you think I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I have come to divide people against each other"](#) (Luke 12:51). That's a hard reality of Christianity so let's encourage and comfort each other.

Many of you here have felt this rejection by your own people. You're not alone and loved by us here. So encourage someone who is feeling alone and rejected.

Knowing that people are there that care is exactly what we need to win the day.