

And Ye Would Not

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 13:34. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not!"

As I consider this verse I think of how that God sent Jesus to teach the people of Israel. He preached the word of God to them, as well as performing miracles. Think of it, many people watched as the Lord cleansed the lepers, cast out the unclean spirits, opened the eyes of the blind, made the lame to walk, and even raised the dead! Then had the blindness of heart to ask for a sign to prove himself.

John 1:11 states, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." The Lord showed his love for, not only Israel, but for all mankind when he went to the cross and gave his life for our sins. In **Matthew 11:21**, Jesus said, "Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes." Yet, for all of his preaching and doing miracles among the

people of Israel they refused to believe in him.

A few of the people believed in the Lord Jesus and became his faithful followers. Still the majority of Israel "Would Not." Truly as the scriptures say, "For many are called, but few are chosen." **Matthew 22:14**. This has continued throughout the years of history. The word of God has been preached and many will not hear it, refusing even to consider that it is true. Then, even among those who hear it some will not accept Jesus as their savior. He is rejected by so many of those that he gave his life for. He offers forgiveness of sins, but they would not heed his call.

In trying to talk to people today about coming to the Lord and going to church, the story is still the same. People make the same excuses that folks have made for centuries. No time, some other time they might, no good clothes, or any other old, worn out excuse that has been used by others. I remember one woman who stopped her husband when he started making excuses. She said, "Stop lying to the preacher, if we want to come to church, we'll come. Just like we do anywhere else that we want to go." Her answer surprised her husband and me, yet, it was true. If they don't ever come to the Lord and get saved, then on the judgment day the Lord may say, "I offered you salvation, but ye would not."

People know that they are here for a number of years, then they will die. The devil has many convinced that death is the end. Remember Jesus said, in verse **44 of John 8**, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." Because death is only the end of life here in the flesh, but the spirit lives on forever, Jesus made a way for those who believe and obey to live in heaven with him. He made the way by his sacrifice on the cross and his rising from the dead - he paid the price and all we have to do is to believe and accept him as Lord.

Whether you believe in Jesus, or not, he is real and is the Son of God. Whether you love him, or not, he loves you. For you are among those of mankind that he died to save. One day he will come back for his church, that is all those who have not only believed in him, but have obeyed his word. When he comes it will be too late to say, "I believe." Now is the time to receive the saving grace of God. Friend, don't be among those who make light of his offer of forgiveness, and then find yourself turned away from heaven. Will he say, "I died for you and ye would not come to me. My children witnessed to you, invited you to come to worship and hear the word of life, but ye would not."

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL
WHEN JACOB INFORMED RACHEL THAT HE WAS A KINSMAN SHE RAN OFF, MUCH TO JACOB'S SURPRISE, NOW ...

BUT WHY DOES RACHEL RUN AWAY - WHAT HAVE I DONE ?!

I MUST TELL MY FATHER OF THIS AT ONCE!

FATHER! FATHER! HEarken UNto ME!

WHAT IS IT, MY DAUGHTER - AND WHERE ARE THE SHEEP?

THIS DAY, WHEN I WENT TO THE WELL WITH THE SHEEP...

... I MET A YOUNG MAN NAMED JACOB WHO WATERED THE SHEEP FOR ME, AND EMBRACED ME AND SAID HE WAS THY SISTER'S SON!

EMBRACED THEE ?! AND SAID HE WAS REBEKAH'S SON ?!

COME! HASTEN! EVERYONE! WE MUST SEE THIS YOUNG MAN WHO MET RACHEL AT THE WELL!

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