

INTERNATIONAL BIBLE CHURCH (IBC) LINZ

Flötzerweg 156 (Neue Heimat) 4030 Linz

...then you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free. Jn.8:32

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTLINE

24:05:15

Theme: REJECTION OF THE PEOPLE OF JOHN'S TIME

Memory Verse: *John 1:11 "He came unto his own, and his own received him not."*

Texts: Mathew 21:26, 14:5, Luke 20:6

Unfortunately, the people of John's time rejected both his message and ministry since they failed to recognize in him the fulfilment of prophecy. They continued to regard him as a great man (Mathew 21:26; 14:5; Luke 20:6) yet Jewish religious leader turned against him. Eventually, Herod beheaded him. This was the fate of John the Baptist, God's commissioned messenger who came in the spirit and power of Elijah and yet was rejected by his people.

The Lord Jesus predicted the same rejection of His ministry by the Jewish establishment. He told the disciples as they descended from the mount and he completed his discourse with them, "likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them" (Mathew 17:12). The same combination-the Jewish people, their religious leaders, and the political authorities- was about to afflict and kill Jesus. The entire world of unbelief was about to combine against the Messiah. Of this tragic rejection, John was to lament, "He came unto his own, and his own received him, not" (John 1:11).

Men, because of unbelief, have always rejected God's messenger over the ages. From righteous Abel to Noah, fiery Elijah to wailing Jeremiah, John the Baptist to Jesus Christ the Saviour, the experience remains the same: rejection of God's commissioned messengers. Oh that men would realize that rejecting God's messengers is a rejection of he who sent them, a rejection of His message, mercy and generosity. Recognition of this fact made the psalmist to admonish what he said in Psalm 2:10-12. Proverbs corroborates the danger of rejecting Christ: "But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul; all they that hate me love death" (Proverbs 8:36). Outside Christ, there is no hope for man. Those who recognize this fact and surrender their lives to Him reap great rewards. (John 1:12). Which side are you today? The rejecters or the receivers?