

Who do you think Jesus is? – SeungJin Kim NCF – Sunday 4th March 2018

“Who do you say that I am?”

Mat 27:27-31

Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

Question: Who do you think Jesus is?

What do you want to call Jesus?

Why enemy(satan) tried to stop Jesus from being born?

- Moses; Genocide on Hebrew boys
- Queen Athaliah tried to kill all the royal family in southern kingdom (daughter of Ahaz + Jezebel)
- Time of Esther - attempt to annihilate all Jewish people - Festival of Purim
- Jesus' time - genocide to kill Jewish boys under two years
- - - - > Satan surely knew who Jesus was: Jesus would be the coming Messiah

Who is Jesus? What did they call Jesus? - Specially in the book of Matthew

- Son of God - equality with God
- Son of David - implication King of the Jews
- king of the Jews, Messiah
- Others: John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, rabbi, imposters etc.

There has been a lot of confusion over who Jesus is

Pharisees, lawyers, Scribes - Leader of the nations

They have been teaching Kingdom of God, however they did not recognise who Jesus was because they had different /wrong expectations for the coming king

Jesus' foretold his death and resurrection 3 times, however

- He was not understood but betrayed by his twelve disciples in the end
- Peter denied three times

Now he was alone before crucifixion

- people stripped him, put scarlet robe which means royal costume, crown of thorns and reed in his right hand
- people kneeling before him, saying "Hail, king of the Jews" and spat on him
- took the reed and struck on his head
- after mocking, stripping him from robe

Jesus was not in the box, Jesus did not meet their expectations

- he was born - in a manger
- he died - Crucifixion
- Complete mocking, despise, contempt and finally Jesus was rejected by his own people
- Crucifixion was used to punish slaves, pirates, and enemies of the state.
- It was considered the most shameful and disgraceful, dishonourable way to die

Same thing happened to disciples, other believers in Roman empire for 300 years

- Mocking, rejecting, persecuting...
- That has been the church history - still same in North Korea, China, many other nations
- If we are the follower of Jesus, same thing might happen to us in some degree

However, the good news is Resurrection

- death is not the end, suffering is not the end, struggles are not the end

Why people rejected Jesus or why could they not accept him as Messiah?

- Different expectations, anticipations

2 Questions for Conclusion

1. What do you want to call Jesus today?

What have been my expectations for/from Jesus?

Have some wrong expectations for Jesus? e. g - mother of sons of Zebedee wishing her sons to be successful when Jesus build the kingdom(Mt20:21-22)

What can be the right title for Jesus for me today in my own situations?

2. What am I going through now? Who am I in Jesus?

Jesus' crucifixion was the most shameful to underestimate every part of Jesus' identity.

However Cross is not the symbol of agony but grin for glory and victory that he won for us

Let's not loose heart but think about his victory instead of his pain.

We are "Overcomers" as follower of Jesus! That's who we are in Jesus