**Rating/Reviewing Jesus**

Online shoppers are familiar with customer reviews and ratings. Both products and the companies that sell them often depend on having positive reviews and ratings.

But this is not a perfect system. Some products and companies are highly rated based on a small sample size of customers who used the products only occasionally and at a limited capacity.

On the other end of the spectrum, some bad reviews/ratings are generated by people purchasing a product without understanding its purpose and capabilities- what it was designed and built to do, and were therefore frustrated and disappointed when it didn’t perform either what or how they wanted.

Thus, expectations and desires- informed and legitimate, or otherwise, often influence product ratings and reviews. **This also happened with Jesus; and does happen with Jesus!**

Please consider how **expectations** and **desires influence how people *felt* and *reacted*** (and feel and react) to Jesus:

* Some were/are *expecting* and *desiring* **primarily physical things** from Jesus, John 6:1-14 🡪 22-36 🡪 41-42.

**Application:** Think about the content of your prayers- are they dominated by *physical* or *spiritual* concerns, cf. Matt.6:9-13.

* Some were/are *expecting* and *desiring* **primarily a political and/or military leader** to deliver their nation, cp. 1Sam.8:4-5 🡪 11:1-2 🡪 12:12 🡪 8:20 with the *Jewish* attraction to a “Messiah” who could *feed 5,000* with a few loaves and fishes, *heal* all manner of maladies, *walk on water,* and *raise the dead*. This explains His “high rating” with *the people*, but also helps with His “low rating” from those who had become wealthy and powerful during the subjugation of the nation and the corruption of religion, John 11:47-48.

**Application:** Are we more concerned with *“our place and nation,”* or the growth and development of *“the kingdom,”* Matt.6:33a?

* Some were/are *expecting* and *desiring* **“experiences”- *miraculous* and *amazing* things** from Jesus, Luke 23:5-12. Herod seemingly was more interested in being entertained with a “show” from Jesus than he was with truth or salvation.

**Application:** Many today seem to want an *experience-* both in salvation itself, cf. Acts 9:3,8-9,17-18a 🡪 vv.6,18b; 22:16; and in worship, 1Cor.11:20ff.

* Some were/are *expecting* and *desiring* platitudes of “sound bite” truth or “life lessons”- a “Christian” philosophy that will fit in a fortune cookie, John 18:33 – 19:5.

**Application:** When Jesus said He came that we might have *life,* and have it more *abundantly,* cf. John 10:10, He was talking about *spiritual life.* He also said that this *life* (which comes from the *truth* He spoke) would not make us *healthy, wealthy,* and *wise,* but that it might well cost us our *families, homes,* and even our *lives,* Matt.10:34-39. This is *the truth* for which we must contend, Jude 3.

**But** some also were/are *expecting* and *desiring* **salvation from their sins** and **spiritual life** from Jesus,Luke 2:22-38; Acts 4:12; these were not, and are not, disappointed!

**Application:** How we “rate” or “review” Jesus may well depend upon our e*xpectations* and *desires* from Him. If we are looking for *physical things* or *political solutions* to national problems, or even “spiritual” *experiences* or *platitudes,* we will most likely be disappointed.

But, if we are looking for a *fulfilled* life here characterized by *truth, righteousness, grace, mercy,* and ultimately *eternal salvation,* **we will in no wise be disappointed!**

You can begin to have *that life* and *these things* today, even this morning, if you will accept them. Jesus loves you more than life itself, and is willing to graciously *forgive* all your sins, and accept you into the Father’s kingdom if you will but come and accept His invitation, Matt.11:28-30.