

## **A Mixed Reception**

*People accept or reject Christ based on a correct or false understanding of who He is.*

Matthew 13:54-14:36

- I. *A pre-passion story*: The polarized response to Jesus points ahead to His final rejection
  
- II. Two rejections (13:54-14:12)
  - The rejection of His own people in the synagogue at Nazareth (13:54-58)
    - Rejection of Christ is the result of not understanding his nature as the God-man
    - Rejection of Christ is the fruit of unbelief (living by sight and not by faith)
  - The rejection of John the Baptist by Herod Antipas (14:1-12)
    - Rejection of Truth leads to hatred of truth (and even murder)
  
- III. Two mixed receptions (14:13-33)
  - The feeding of the 5000 – the disciples' faith is tested by a lack of resources (14:13-21)
    - What "realities" around you are testing your faith in Christ?
  - A storm on the Sea of Galilee – Peter's faith and failure (14:22-33)
    - The power is not intrinsic to faith but is found in Christ's command
  - Grace is offered to needy disciples
  
- IV. The "fourth-soil" reception by "the outsiders" at Gennesarat (14:34-36)
  
- V. Conclusion: A call to faith in the true Person and work of Christ