

Men Who Failed Christ

Intro: During the life of Christ here on this earth, Christ came across many different men. Many of those men failed Christ in one way or another. We should be able to learn from them and their mistakes; One who does not learn from history is bound to repeat it.

I. HEROD.

A. Mat. 2:

B. Herod failed Christ for selfish reasons.

1. When Christ was born the wise men who came from the east came to Herod. They asked him, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"
2. This troubled Herod for he considered it a threat to his power as king. He only considered self.
 - a. He did not consider the good Christ could do, Acts 10:38 ³⁸ How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."
 - b. He did not consider the fact that Christ kingdom was not a physical kingdom but a spiritual one, John 18:36 ³⁶ Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."

C. Do we fail Christ for selfish reasons?

II. CHRIST OWN PEOPLE.

A. **Mat. 13:57** ⁵⁷ And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house."; **John 1:11** ¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not."

B. They thought Christ was too commonplace.

- a. His background was not that of royalty or nobility.
- b. He was not educated in any of the schools of that day.
- c. His family was of ordinary people, Mat. 13:55 ⁵⁵ Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?"

C. Many fail Christ today because they think He is too commonplace.

1. They reject the Bible (His word) thinking that they need something else, more important, written by doctors, phycologist, etc.
2. Many reject Him because of His simplicity, 2 Cor. 11:3 ³ But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
3. They try to make Christianity more difficult than what it is.

III. MANY OF CHRIST DISCIPLES.

A. **John 6:66** ⁶⁶ From that *time* many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him."

1. Christ had shown these people the demands of following Him.

- a. They must eat His flesh and drink His blood, John 6:53, 54 ⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

- b. They must follow His words, John 6:63 ⁶³ "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life."
- c. John 6:60 ⁶⁰ "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?"
- 2. As a result many deserted Him.
- B. Do we desert Christ, thus failing Him.**
 - 1. Do we fail to study Christ's words, thus deserting Him?
 - 2. Do we fail to follow Him when the going gets rough, when people make fun, ridicule, and persecute us?
 - 3. Do we fail to follow Him when there are demands made on our time, our energy, and our talents, etc.?
 - 4. Do we really follow Jesus wherever He leads?

IV. JUDAS.

- A. John 12:3-6** ³ Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. ⁴ Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's *son*, which should betray him, ⁵ Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? ⁶ This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein."; **Mat. 26:14-16, 47-50** ¹⁴ Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, ¹⁵ And said *unto them*, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that time he sought opportunity to betray him.... ⁴⁷ And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. ⁴⁹ And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him."
 - 1. We see Judas' real interest from these two passages.
 - 2. The love of money caused Judas to fail, and ultimately crucify Christ.
- B. Do we have a love of money?**
 - 1. Love of money separates us from God.
 - a. Mat. 13:22 ²² He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."
 - b. 1 Tim. 6:9-10 ⁹ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."
 - 2. Love of money is covetousness which is idolatry.
 - a. Eph. 5:5 ⁵ For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God."
 - b. Col. 3:5 ⁵ Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:"
 - 3. Do we fail to give to God as we have been prospered?
 - a. 1 Cor. 16:1-2 ¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. ² Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
 - b. 2 Cor. 9:7 ⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."
 - c. When we fail to give as we should we rob God; Mal. 3:8 ⁸ Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings."
 - 4. Because of a love of money many fail Christ.

V. PETER.

- A. Mat. 26:33-35, 58, 69-75** ⁶³³ Peter answered and said unto him, Though all *men* shall be offended because of thee, *yet* will I never be offended. ³⁴ Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. ³⁵ Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples.... ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants, to see the end.... ⁶⁹ Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. ⁷⁰ But he denied before *them* all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. ⁷¹ And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and said unto them that were there, This *fellow* was also with Jesus of Nazareth. ⁷² And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man. ⁷³ And after a while came unto *him* they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee. ⁷⁴ Then began he to curse and to swear, *saying*, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.”
1. Peter instead of following close to Jesus began following Him far off.
 2. This type of following led Peter to deny Jesus and finally to curse (call down evils upon himself; “to invoke divine harm if what is said is not true”—Louw-Nida).
- B. Do we begin following Jesus far off.**
1. Do we no longer attend services of the Lord's church like we should.
 2. Do we fail to associate with Christians like we once did? cf. 1 Cor. 15:33 ⁶³³ Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”
 3. Do we no longer serve Christ like we once did? cf. 1 Cor. 15:58 ⁶⁵⁸ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
 4. When we begin following Christ from afar we like Peter will soon be denying Him.

VI. CHRIST DISCIPLES.

- A. Mat. 26:56** ⁶⁵⁶ But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”
1. They were afraid.
 2. As a result, they fled and forsook Christ.
- B. Do we become afraid, thus forsaking Christ?**
1. Are we afraid of persecution?
 2. Are we afraid of ridicule?
 3. Are we afraid to speak up for Christ?
 - a. We need not fear if we have the truth.
 - b. Truth has nothing to fear.
 4. 2 Tim. 1:7 ⁶⁴⁷ For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

VII. FALSE WITNESSES.

- A. Mat. 26:59-62** ⁶⁵⁹ Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; ⁶⁰ But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, *yet* found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, ⁶¹ And said, This *fellow* said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. ⁶² And the high priest arose, and said unto him, Answerest thou nothing? what *is it which* these witness against thee?”
- B. Those who are false teachers fail Christ today.**
1. We are warned that there will be false teachers.
 - a. Mat. 7:15 ⁶¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.”

- b. Acts 20:29-30 ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.”
 - c. 1 Tim. 4:1-2 ¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”
 - d. 2 Pet. 2:1 ¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.”
 - e. 1 John 4:1 ¹ Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”
2. False teachers did come.
 - a. 1 Tim. 1:19-20 ¹⁹ Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: ²⁰ Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”
 - b. 2 Tim. 2:17-18 ¹⁷ And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; ¹⁸ Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.”
 3. When we allow false teachers to sway us then we, like the false teachers, fail Christ.

VIII. PILATE.

- A. **Mat. 27:11-26** ¹¹ And Jesus stood before the governor: and the governor asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And Jesus said unto him, Thou sayest. ¹² And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. ¹³ Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? ¹⁴ And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly. ¹⁵ Now at *that* feast the governor was wont to release unto the people a prisoner, whom they would. ¹⁶ And they had then a notable prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷ Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ? ¹⁸ For he knew that for envy they had delivered him. ¹⁹ When he was set down on the judgment seat, his wife sent unto him, saying, Have thou nothing to do with that just man: for I have suffered many things this day in a dream because of him. ²⁰ But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor answered and said unto them, Whether of the twain will ye that I release unto you? They said, Barabbas. ²² Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? *They* all say unto him, Let him be crucified. ²³ And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified. ²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but *that* rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed *his* hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person: see ye *to it*. ²⁵ Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children. ²⁶ Then released he Barabbas unto them: and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered *him* to be crucified.”
 1. He wanted to please the people.
 2. He tried to be neutral.
- B. **Seeking for popularity is dangerous.**
 1. Christians are to be separated from this world.
 - a. Rom. 12:1-2 ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - b. Eph. 5:11 ¹¹ And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.”
 2. Christians are not to love this world.
 - a. Col. 3:2 ² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”

- b. Jam. 4:4 ⁴⁴ “Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”
- c. I John 2:15-17 ⁴⁵ “Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ⁴⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ⁴⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”
3. Exo. 23:2 ⁴² “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to *do* evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest *judgment*.”
4. An example: John 12:42-43 ⁴² “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess *him*, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: ⁴³ For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

C. There can be no neutrality in this conflict.

1. Mat. 12:30 ³⁰ “He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.”
2. 2 Tim. 2:4 ⁴⁴ “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.”
3. A person is either a part of the problem or a part of the solution.

IX. SOLDIERS.

A. Mat. 27:27-31 ²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band *of soldiers*. ²⁸ And they stripped him, and put on him a scarlet robe. ²⁹ And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put *it* upon his head, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews! ³⁰ And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head. ³¹ And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify *him*.”

1. These men had no special malice against Christ.
2. They were just calloused, hard-hearted, and did not care.

B. There are many people like these today.

1. They do not have anything against Christ.
2. They just don't care.
3. Many people have been hardened by sin.
 - a. Heb. 3:15 ¹⁵ “While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.”
 - b. 2 Cor. 6:2 ⁴² (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation.)”

Conclusion: Have you been failing Christ? If so, then repent, turning to God, and live for Him.