

It was *supposed* to be a day that left everyone feeling good. Hugs and kisses. Handshakes, pats on the back from friends. Everyone heard of all that He'd been doing; well-respected teacher; doing mighty works. Word had gotten around, they're proud –one of their own, hometown kid. Synagogue packed; the whole town there, to hear Jesus preach. Jesus didn't say what they expected. They're **astonished**, not in a good way, "*Who does this guy think He is? Where did He get these things? Why is He speaking like this?*" A day with such anticipation, promise, ended with people offended, rebelling against Jesus. He simply preached God's Word, to repent and receive the kingdom in Him. Despite hearing perfect truth, shown perfect love, they rebelled. Should we ever be shocked by people taking offense, rebellion against us for Jesus sake.

God send Ezekiel to go to Israelites who rebelled. A few verses later they're called **obstinate and stubborn**. *I know, none of you can relate to that.* Ezekiel might respond like me facing this group, 'Why me? to the likes of you? How am I suppose to accomplish this? Look at these rebellious people. How?' **Not by my power or strength, but by my Spirit, declares the Lord.** The Holy Spirit working in me to bring you His Word and gifts, and, AND, the Holy Spirt working in you in the means of His word. It's called God's Law working against your rebellion, condemning you, teaching you how to live, to cause you to live repentant; it's called God's Gospel -brings His works of the Christ -forgiveness and life, to restore you, heal you, welcome you rebellious children. It's called grace. It's yours.

Rebellion. Americans know rebellion well. We just celebrated our nations' 242nd birthday of our rebellion. At a Lutheran church in Virginia, Pastor Muhlenberg entered the pulpit to preach his last sermon. He was a good friend of George Washington, Patrick Henry. He speaks from Ecc. 3, **there is a time for everything, a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.** and now is a time for war. No one wants it. But times it is necessary. He takes off his vestments in the pulpit, to display a colonels uniform in Washington's army. Drums start to play, walks out of the church, 300 men will then enlist. Pastor Muhlenberg's brother is also called Pastor Muhlenberg. There is Christians concern if rebellion is God-fearing, according to God's Word, or if it's insurrection against God in accord with Romans ch. 13. He famously stated "as long as King George doesn't oppose me preaching the Gospel, I will not oppose King George". He didn't enlist, until the British burned down his Lutheran church.

Rebellion can be a good thing; righteous, God-fearing, according to His Word to protect our family and neighbor, stop evil and oppression. We must

take a stand upon God's truth and let people be offended -as they were in Nazareth. Jesus speaks the truth of their rebellion, to repent, the Kingdom of the Christ is at hand. Today, as then, people have their own ideas about God, their own truth. God's Word, Jesus is offensive. Sadly, we see too often, people offended by God's Word, will twist it, change it to support their sinful rebellious desires. We will not be moved from God's truth and have what happened to Jesus happen to us. God's primary call to you is to be faithful. That's the only way God ever measures success in His church. Faithfulness to His Word. People will be offended by us, as we speak the truth in love -in love- and gentleness against fake news against God's Word. Be honored to join the ranks of Jesus and His faithful people as people reject and rebel against you for His sake. God help us.

We must stand against evil. Tomorrow may cause a historical shift in what a 5th pro-life justice would mean. You are called upon to rebel in faithfulness. Rebellion, a good thing, to stand for what's right and good and pure and holy.

Rebellion can be bad, very bad. We rebel because we want to do what we want to do, when we want, we want our way, we want people to not call us out if we're wrong.

We are indeed rebels, all of us. Despite His perfect love and care, you rebel. 1st Commandment. We should fear, love and trust in God above all things and we fear, love and trust in our selfish rebellious ways. He provides all we have; daily gives all we need, everyday, to support this body and life and you are a rebel to think 'I've earned it, I deserve things, I have rebellious good reasons for not helping others and giving more. He gives and gives and you rebel in coveting, insecure, aren't satisfied with what He gives. He gives you a spouse and home and we rebel against His good gifts and weddings vows -do not love and honor as we should. You rebel everyday against God, your loved ones, not to mention others in your life. Repent, the Kingdom is at hand.

What happened in that Nazareth synagogue that day, takes place here every Sunday. He desires you be here, to hear Him speak, preach His Word and give His gifts of His Sacramental presence through His servant He sent. He is here to join Himself to you even greater than it was for them back in Nazareth. That we be repentant, faithful rebels, amidst this culture and our own flesh. For you Jesus overcomes your rebellion of sin by being rejected in your place. And this the greatest offense of all, that your redemption isn't found in your acceptance of Jesus, but in His acceptance of you. He welcomes rebels into His Kingdom. Rebellious children, yet, you are holy, made pure in His works of forgiveness.