

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 15:1-8.**
- B. One gentleman said, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter."
- C. This is very true depending what side of the issue you are on.
- D. For example look at the views one can take of:
  - 1. George Washington; was he a rebel or a freedom fighter?
  - 2. The Confederacy in the Civil War; were they rebels or freedom fighters?

## I. WHAT IS A REBEL?

- A. A rebel is a person we normally think of as armed and taking action against a country or government.
- B. A rebel can also be defined as someone who resists authority or controls or those in control.
- C. In looking at "Jesus the rebel" I think we shall see that many looked upon Him in this way, but the rebels were the Jews.

## II. WHAT A REBEL PROMISES.

- A. Those that instigate rebellion make four basic promises or claims:
  - 1. They make denunciations. They speak down about current conditions and people in places of authority.
  - 2. They are (sometimes) violent to carry out their objectives.
  - 3. They promise a better regime to come.
  - 4. Protest the current policies and procedures (of those in authority).
- B. As we look at "Jesus the rebel" we shall see how He fits all of these criteria and could be looked at as one who rebelled against the Jewish authority.

## III. JESUS THE REBEL.

- A. Let's examine four areas and see how Jesus was a rebel:
  - 1. He made denunciations (Mt. 23:13-15, 25-31, 33).

(Mt 23:13-15) "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut off the kingdom of heaven from men; for you do not enter in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. **14** <"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you devour widows' houses, even while for a pretense you make long prayers; therefore you shall receive greater condemnation.> **15** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel about on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

(Mt 23:25-31) "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. **26** "You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may become clean also. **27** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness. **28** "Even so you too outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. **29** "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, **30** and say, 'If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' **31** "Consequently you bear witness against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets.

(Mt 23:33) "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how shall you escape the sentence of hell?"

(In all of this Jesus did tell the truth, some rebels do not.)
  - 2. Used violence (Mk. 11:15; Jn. 2:13-17).

(Mk 11:15) And they came^ to Jerusalem. And He entered the temple and began to cast out those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves;

(Jn 2:13-17) And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **14** And He

found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. **15** And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; **16** and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise." **17** His disciples remembered that it was written, "ZEAL FOR THY HOUSE WILL CONSUME ME."

(Remember that Jesus did this all without sinning.)

3. Promised a better regime to come (Jn. 18:36).

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."

(Many references to the kingdom that is to come being better and everlasting.)

4. Protested the current conditions of the Jews and their religion (see Mt. 15:1-9).

(Tradition has nullified what they were to be doing.)

- B. The Jews really looked upon Jesus as being the rebel (Jn. 11:47-50).

Therefore the chief priests and the Pharisees convened a council, and were saying, "What are we doing? For this man is performing many signs. **48** "If we let Him go on like this, all men will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." **49** But a certain one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all, **50** nor do you take into account that it is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish."

## CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The words of X as recorded in John 12 show who really is the rebel in the confrontations between Jesus and the Jews (Jn. 12:44-50).

And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me does not believe in Me, but in Him who sent Me. **45** "And he who beholds Me beholds the One who sent Me. **46** "I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness. **47** "And if anyone hears My sayings, and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. **48** "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. **49** "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak. **50** "And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

- B. It was actually the Jews who were the rebels against God. However, because of the human vantage point it seemed as if Jesus was the rebel.

- C. Jesus Christ is a freedom fighter and these who sin against God are the rebels.

- D. Isaiah prophesied about these rebels against God (Mt. 13:13-15).

"Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14** "And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; **15** FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'

- E. We rebel against God when we sin (Rom. 5:9).

Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

- F. Stop being a rebel against God by allowing God's "Freedom Fighter" to work for us.

- G. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; for erring Xians.