



Mister

unPopular

Victorious, But Unpopular

- **Isaiah 52:13–15, 53:1–3, 7–9, 11–12**
- **Even though the Messiah was victorious in the end, these prophecies clearly present Him as achieving that victory through suffering and alienation.**
- **As one reads the gospels, especially John, it becomes clear that Jesus faced repeated hills and valleys in His ministry. His popularity ebbed and flowed, a product of the fickle nature of humanity. When He healed and fed the multitudes they loved Jesus. But when He condemned their actions or upset the order of their lives, they turned on Him violently.**



John 6:15, 22-24, 66

John 7:10-13, 15, 20, 25-27

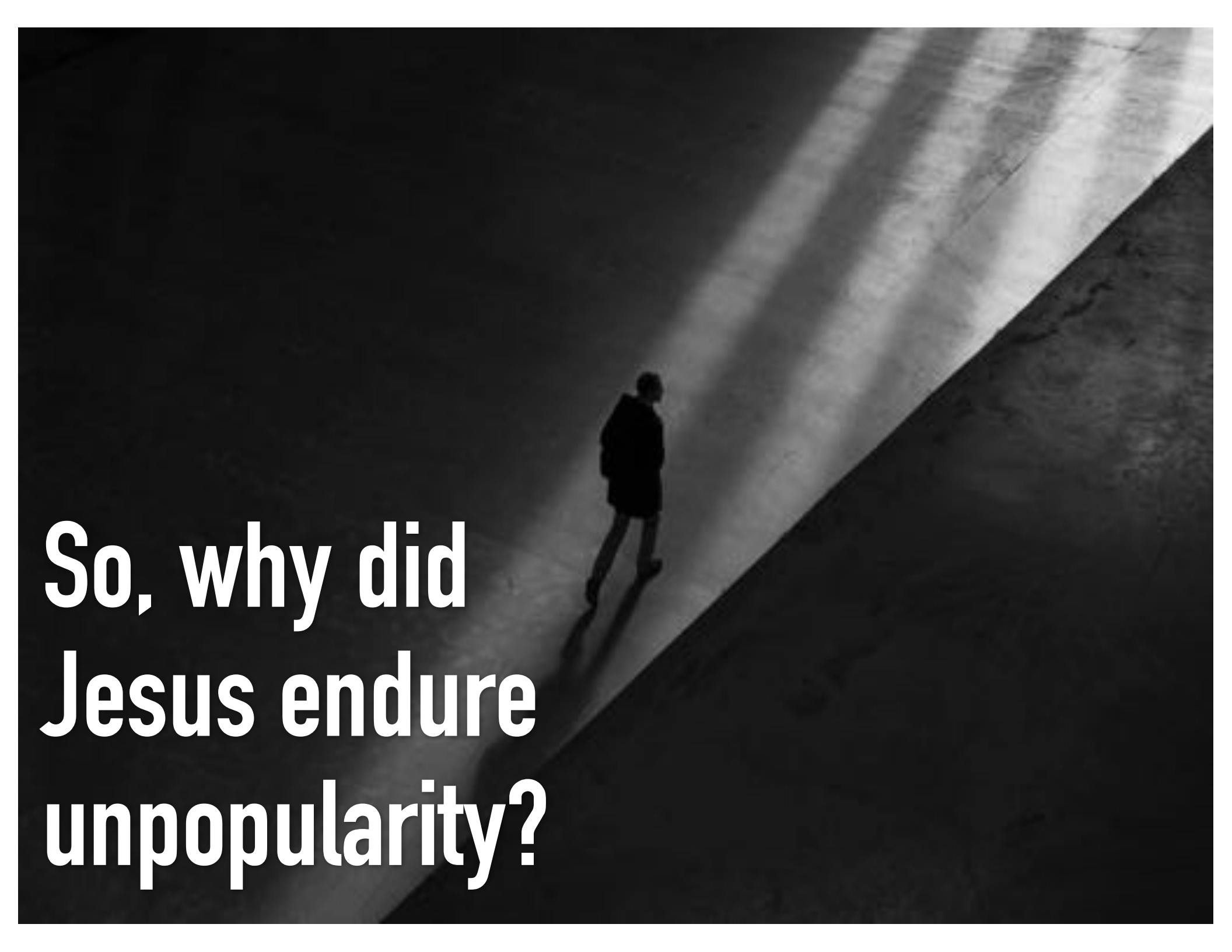
John 8:30, 59

John 10:19-21, 31, 39, 40-42

John 12:12-15

John 19:15





**So, why did
Jesus endure
unpopularity?**

- **BECAUSE HE WAS MISSION-FOCUSED** – Jesus didn't care about popularity because His mission was not determined or altered by public opinion. His was a divine calling, unrelated to the fickle whims of mankind (John 5:17, 19, 30, 4:34). Similarly, our most important tasks might make us quite unpopular. Parenting, for example (Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 12:9-11).
- **BECAUSE TRUTH DEFINED HIM** – Truth is exclusive (John 8:32, 14:6). It's not made more or less "truthful" by how receptive people are to it. So Jesus always invited others to come to Him, not the other way around. Worldly popularity is often based on ingratiating yourself to others, buttering them up, or coming on their terms. Contrast that with John 3:16-21, 7:1-7.
- **(SIDE NOTE: Nobody ever remembers the followers, the cowards, the nameless many who blend in to the background of a fallen world. We admire those who uncompromisingly defend truth)**

- **BECAUSE HE WASN'T IMPRESSED WITH GLORY FROM MEN – He was even less impressed with self-derived glory, as He put it in John 5:41–44 and 8:54. Also see Proverbs 25:27. In other gospels Jesus confronted the elites of His day, calling them out for hypocrisy, vanity, and empty worship – more concerned with receiving praise and recognition than knowing God (Matthew 6:2, 5, 16, 23:5–7).**
- **BECAUSE JESUS WANTED DISCIPLESHIP RATHER THAN POPULARITY – Popularity comes and goes, but commitment has staying power. It actually means something in the long run. While popularity feels nice at the moment, it's not the same thing as true, lasting friendship (which is largely based on a “disciple” mentality according to John 15:12–19). A disciple recognizes that today's discomfort has an eternal reward that is worth it (John 12:23–26). A disciple knows that Jesus is the source of eternal life and will not trade that for anything (John 6:66–69).**