**Series: Come Lord Jesus**

**Today: Offended by Jesus?**

**Speaker: Ronnie Norman, Senior Minister**

As Australian Glen Scrivener puts it, “Christians believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. Atheists believe in the virgin birth of the universe. Choose your miracle.” - Rebecca McLaughlin

“What’s truly amazing about the Christian faith is the idea that the God who made the universe from quarks to galaxies also cares enough about us to be born as a human and to suffer and die to bring forgiveness and new life to broken people.” – Jonathan Feng, Distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Irvine

1. **Are You Offended by Jesus?**

***Mark 6:1-6***

*Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. 2When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.*

*“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?*

*3Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?”* ***And they took offense at him.***

* Jesus warns us we are lost and need a Savior.
* Jesus teaches us we are sheep needing a shepherd.
* Jesus informs us avoiding hardship is not an option.
* Jesus commands us to forgive.

**Moralistic Therapeutic Deism**

* God exists who created and ordered the world and watches over human life on earth.
* God wants people to be good, nice, and fair to each other, as taught in the Bible and by most world religions.
* The central goal of life is to be happy and to feel good about oneself.
* God does not need to be particularly involved in one's life except when God is needed to resolve a problem.
* Good people go to heaven when they die
* Jesus warns us we are lost and need a Savior.
* Jesus teaches us we are sheep needing a shepherd.
* Jesus informs us avoiding hardship is not an option.
* Jesus commands us to forgive.

*4Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” 5He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.*

*6He was amazed at their lack of faith.*

**Image of Candle Burning -- https://www.thumc.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/ChristmasEveImage.jpg**

***John 3:19***

*16For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. 19This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

*20Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.*

 *21But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.*

***Why We Love Our Dark Idols***

***1. They tell me what I want to hear.***

***2. They tell me I’m the center of the universe.***

***3. Their values are my “as of now” values.***

1. **Are You Inspired by Jesus**
* His Unlimited Power
* His Unrestricted Compassion
* His Unvarnished Truth
* His Unmatched Grace

Fully judged & Fully Loved

1. **Are You On Offense for Jesus**
* Welcoming the light of Christ’s example, teaching, moral law, and grace.
* Going on mission as the light of Christ in your home, church community and beyond.