

I. A QUICK REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

- A. We have all felt rejection. The protective walls we build around our souls are the evidence that rejection has wounded us more than we thought.
1. We're all on a pathway to a future which has the letters "REJECTION" emblazoned overhead. It's inevitable; we are guaranteed to feel rejected again. So how we deal with rejection becomes a huge issue in our lives!
- B. No one understands rejection better than Jesus.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:3)

1. The more we become like Jesus, the more rejection we will know. So establish your heart now in the expectation that, as you become more like Him, you will face even more rejection in the days ahead.

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. (2 Timothy 3:12)

- C. A giant step toward freedom of soul is made when we are able to see God as the author of life's rejections and not men. Although men are dispensing the rejection, God is actually allowing it in His sovereign plan for a divine purpose.
1. If we respond properly to it, the rejection will be used by God to shape and conform us into the image of Christ.
 2. Instead of struggling in our heart toward those who reject us, we can give thanks to God who allows it for a higher purpose.

II. THE REAL SOURCE OF HEALING

- A. Rejection will always sting, but there is a healing balm. It is the unparalleled affection that the Father lavishes upon His children!
1. No matter what the source of the rejection, nor the nature of the rejection, we have an internal wellspring of acceptance that flows from the heart of our heavenly Father to us.

- a. He accepts me based upon the finished work of the cross and His shed blood.
- b. You are wildly and irrevocably loved and enjoyed by God.

(Jer. 31:3; John 6:37; Eph. 1:6; Rom. 8:15-17; Rom. 15:7)

- B. One of the first steps to being healed from the ravages of rejection is by extending TOTAL forgiveness to those who have wronged us.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34)

Then he [Stephen] fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:60)

- 1. "Lord, I forgive them, but now I'm asking you to forgive them, too. I'm asking you to blot out of heaven's records every sin that they have committed against me."

III. JESUS PLUS NOTHING

- A. When God accepts me, I need acceptance from no one else.

23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. 24 But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. 25 He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man. (John 2:23-25)

- B. We won't be healed of rejection by analyzing the source of our rejection, but by looking at our source of acceptance.
- C. We suffer rejection when we look for someone's acceptance but don't get it. When we long for man's acceptance, we are setting ourselves up for rejection because other people are sinful and imperfect in their response toward us.

Do not pay attention to every word people say, or you may hear your servant cursing you... (Ecclesiastes 7:21)

- 1. If man's acceptance will build us up, man's rejection will devastate us.
- 2. Jesus was not touched by the praise of man, so He was not wounded by the rejection of man. (We must walk in balance.)