

## I. REJECTION: WE ALL EXPERIENCE IT

- A. You have felt rejected. I have felt rejected. To one degree or another, every single one of us has tasted the pain of feeling rejection from other people.
- B. God has created into the fabric of our humanness the desire to be accepted and loved. When we feel rejected (the opposite of love and acceptance), we instinctively fight to regain our emotional balance. We try to find a way to cope and insulate ourselves from the pain.
  - 1. The protective walls we build around our souls are the evidence that rejection has wounded us more than we thought.
  - 2. Once we've been really wounded by rejection, relationships become a great risk.
- C. In our best moments, with the best of intentions, we can still cause others to feel rejected by us.

*And I will very gladly spend and be spent for your souls; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I am loved. (2 Corinthians 12:15 – NKJV)*

- D. 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!

## II. JESUS WAS REJECTED

- A. 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)*

*He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. (John 1:11)*

*If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. (John 15:18)*

- B. Jesus' life illustrates a simple truth: even if you're perfect, you'll still experience rejection.

- C. 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)

### III. REJECTION: GOD'S SPECIAL TOOL

- A. There are many tools at the Master's workbench where He forms His servant's into His image. There is one He uses in a uniquely powerful way to accelerate maturity in His chosen vessels, and that tool is called "Rejection."
- B. If we are to become compassionate servant-leaders, we will first need to drink deeply of the cup of rejection.
1. Don't forget how God prepared David to be the King of Israel.
- 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.
  3. Even though we know that people are not dependable, we're able to give ourselves to them in unqualified love, knowing that any rejection we receive from them is an opportunity for character development in us.
- D. When people reject us, but we're fueled on the inside with the profound affections of our Father for us, then we're able to give ourselves to our fellow man in love regardless of how he treats us.

*15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Romans 8:15-17)*