

The Rewards of Rejection Stewarding the Pain

Rejection definition: Rejection refers to the act of dismissing, refusing, disregarding, or not accepting someone or something. Not given approval or acceptance. Throwing away; casting off; refusing to grant or accept; slighting.

The Rejection of God in the Heavens: The rebellion of Satan with the fallen angels, in pride chose to rebel against God in order to seek to become his own god. Satan did not want to worship or obey God; he wanted to be God. One third of the angels chose to follow Satan in his rebellion and rejection of God. (Ezekiel 28:12-18, Isaiah 14:12-14, Revelation 12:4)

The Rejection of God on the Earth: Rejection entered the world through humanity's rejection of God's sovereignty and His definition of good and evil. Humanity wanted to be "like God," defining good and evil for themselves, rather than trusting and obeying the Creator's definitions. This was an act of independence and rebellion. The first instance of man's rejection of God. (Genesis 3)

Jesus Knew Rejection: He was Rejected, Despised and Hated

Luke 4:14-30 - Jesus Rejected as the Messiah in His own hometown.

Psalms 118:22- *A Stone which the builders rejected* Has become the chief cornerstone.

Isaiah 53:3- He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held Him in low esteem.

John 16:18, 24- "If the world hates you, keep in mind that *it hated Me first*.²⁴ If I had not done among them the works no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. As it is, they have seen, and yet *they have hated both Me and My Father*."

Luke 22:47-48 - Jesus rejected and betrayed by Judas, one of the men closest to him as one of His disciples.⁴⁷ While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, *one of the Twelve*, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him,⁴⁸ but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

Luke 22:54-60- Peter rejects Jesus by disowning Him after His arrest.

Matt 26:56, Mark 14:50, Mark 14:27 - **All the disciples would reject Jesus the night he was arrested.** "You will all fall away," Jesus told them, "For it is written: "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered."

Stories of Rejection:

Hagar- Genesis 16:1-16, Genesis 21:8-21

Leah- Genesis 29:1-35

David- 1 Samuel 16:11-12 (*Overlooked/Rejected by his Family*), 1 Samuel 17:28 (*Rejection by Brothers*), 1 Samuel 20:1, 26:18 (*Rejection by King Saul*), 2 Samuel 15:1-14 (*Rejection by His People*), Psalm 22:6-7 (*Description of his situation*)

'Jesus knew who He was so He did what He did.'

Mark 1:9 At that time **Jesus** came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.¹⁰ *Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, He saw heaven being*

torn open and **the Spirit** descending on Him like a dove. ¹¹ And **a Voice** came from heaven: **“You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased.”**

Luke 5:16 But *Jesus* Himself would *often* slip away to the wilderness and pray.

*‘Jesus was so confident in the father’s affections that He was willing to be rejected, to love others who rejected him even unto a humiliating death. **When people reject you, but you are fueled with the profound affections of your Father, then you are able to give yourself to others in love regardless of how they may treat you.** Man will fail us! It is a reality. We can be fully aware of the fragility and weakness of other’s and yet still love without restraint because of the Father’s affection.’*
Bob Sorge

The acceptance of God is the antidote to the rejection of people!

The Rewards of Stewarding the Pain of Rejection:

-The pain of rejection can push us ‘toward’ God. If we allow our pain to drive us toward God, then we find the reward of Him as the Faithful Source of our True Acceptance.

-When we start receiving the reward of the acceptance of the Father, we stop striving to prove ourselves to Him. We begin to ‘rest’ in His acceptance and love toward us.

-Stewarding the pain of rejection, can be rewarded by transferring our dependency for acceptance from people to God. We begin to learn the futility of striving to be good enough, to produce, perform or to be pleasing to people. We stop pinning to be accepted and approved of by people and instead look to God for our acceptance.

- The Reward of looking more like Jesus- God can use the rejection caused by people for higher growth purposes in us. As we yield to Him in our pain, the rejection will be used by God to shape and conform us into the image of Jesus.

-The reward of becoming compassionate, tenderized people of the Kingdom. Through our own personal experiences of rejection, we become sensitized to how easily rejection can be inflicted upon others. These experiences allow us to learn how to handle others with care and tenderness.

-The Reward of partaking of Christ’s sufferings and reigning with Him! Those who suffer/endure with Christ will reign with Him. Every one of Jesus’ disciples suffered rejection to enter the Kingdom of God. Rejection- *when endured because of faithful submission and obedience to the Father*- allows us the privilege to enter into Jesus’ suffering. This kind of suffering purchases for us ‘rewards’ we cannot even comprehend! (2 Tim 2:11-12)

