

July 7, 2019

Dealing With Rejection

Introduction

All of us to a certain extent have grown up with the f_____ of rejection. This is because we all have a need for acceptance and approval, and more specifically a “s_____ place” of belonging. What we y_____ for is to be loved unconditionally.

Jesus' Reception and Message in Nazareth

(Luke 4:14-30; Isaiah 61:1-2)

As Jesus returned to Galilee, *news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. He began teaching in their synagogues*, and the response was g_____; *He was praised by all* who heard Him teach. He even goes to His hometown of Nazareth, and teaches in the synagogue there. He might have been seen as a hometown h_____ at this point.

Jesus clearly declared that He was f_____ the work of the Messiah that was prophesied by Isaiah. As He addressed the crowd who had difficulty grasping what He was saying, He spoke clearly concerning their preconceived notions and p_____ they had concerning Himself as well as God, and how He operated. The response by *all the people in the synagogue* shows that Jesus hit a n_____ in them. Their prejudice was shown for what it was, and *they were filled with rage as they heard* what Jesus had said.

How Jesus Dealt with Rejection

(Luke 3:21-22; Romans 8:31-39)

Jesus was not concerned with pleasing people. He taught God's truth regardless of people's r_____. He stood firm and went in God's way in the midst of adversity. He was able to do this, because He knew the u_____ love of His Father, and had nothing to prove to be accepted by Him.

Things to Ponder This Week

Based on Luke 4:17-19, what can we learn regarding Jesus' ministry as the promised Messiah? What do we learn from this passage regarding God's heart for the weak and needy? What was Jesus' primary ministry while on this earth? Prayerfully consider how you might minister to the weak and needy.

Based on Luke 4:23-30, what can we learn about both the limitations and expansiveness of God's work? What was Jesus specifically saying about the hearts of the people in His hometown Nazareth? How did the response of the people to His words prove His point?

If Jesus was accused of not being truly the Son of God, and was not accepted by the people in His own hometown, then it is no wonder that we may be misunderstood, and at times, rejected by people. How does knowing how Jesus dealt with rejection help you in difficult times? Why is it important for us to be secure in our identity as children of God, recognizing that even if we cannot please everyone, we can be pleasing to God?

Next Sunday, we will look at “Dealing with Fame.” Prayerfully read Luke 4:31-44, and consider what impressed and drew people to Jesus. Based on Jesus' response to the crowds that flocked to Him, what seemed to matter most to Him?