

Rejecting Rejection

A lot of human behaviour is controlled and shaped by the fear of rejection. Think of the number of times you reject yourself before you can be rejected; that's the source of a lot of shyness. **The enemy wants us to remain in a state where we are stung and wounded by rejection so that we end up socialising along the lines of least resistance.** This will always limit your influence. When you have been wounded you tend to make inner vows, based on self-protective mechanisms, that ultimately control your decision-making processes. This is the safest route for me to go. God, on the other hand, is taking us to a place where we have bullet proof self-images that are straightened towards Him and not bent towards man. When God is our centre, everything we do flows from the blueprint in heaven. Jesus said, "I do what I see my Father doing." **Rejection will happen but being permanently wounded by it is not your portion.** Therefore, the title of my message today is Rejecting Rejection, where we will explore how it is possible to be free from the wounds of rejection. When I speak of rejecting rejection, I am essentially talking about rejecting the sting and the wound of rejection that the enemy wants you to live with.

1. I can reject rejection when I have the revelation that it is only God's opinion of me that counts.

John 5:41-44 "I do not accept glory from human beings, 42 but I know you. I know that you do not have the love of God in your hearts. 43 I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; but if someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. 44 How can you believe since you accept glory from one another but do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?"

God's Word over me is my reality.

Mt 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ps 56:4-5 In God, whose word I praise—in God I trust and am not afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? 5 All day long they twist my words; all their schemes are for my ruin.

As long as the acceptance or rejection from people is exalted above God's honour it is an idol and you will be bound by the fear of man.

Prov 29:5 Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.

God's voice and opinion needs to be restored to its rightful place in our lives if we are to be free from the fear of rejection.

Is God's story of your life your reality?

Acts 5:28-31 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name," he said. "Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood." 29 Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than human beings! 30 The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead—whom you killed by hanging him on a cross. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins.

This is the same Peter who had denied Jesus. He was now free from the fear of man because he had a revelation of where Christ was positioned in comparison to man. When you reject rejection in this way it frees you up to the fulness of your calling.

What is God's story of acceptance over me?

John 1:12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Rom 8:31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Meditate on this truth, God is for you. He is for you at work, at school, at home etc. To what extent are you reminding those around you of such acceptance?

I am amazed by how communities can be very inclusive in tough times like water outages and power faults. I think of my experiences of fetching borehole water from someone in the neighbourhood, names being added to a group providing showering facilities for people etc. We need more of this in the church.

Many people are trying in the flesh to not worry about rejection and exclusion. They don't realise that the only way to be free from the wound of rejection is to embrace God's acceptance. If not, you will react to the rejection of others. You will say things like, "I don't have time for those haters!" and then become vehemently independent. This means you are still affected by the rejection because you are reacting to it.

2. I can reject rejection because I know that God is the source of my promotion.

Often, I suggest to my clients that they have difficult conversations with their bosses and their response is that it will be career limiting. It seems as if many people have exalted their leaders to be their source. Their source of promotion, wealth and any kind of future. This ends up controlling them to a point where it affects their personal lives.

Ps 75:6-7 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. 7It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

Ps 75:6-7 KJV For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. 7But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.

This is one of the most powerful truths for personal mastery. When you understand this, you aim to please God first. You move from impression management to guarding your motives and intent. **You are more conscious of what God is looking for in you and not merely putting on a show for man. You keep asking yourself the question; who am I when no one is watching?**

Gal 1:10 Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Uprooting the man pleasing spirit is not a nice to have. It is crucial in avoiding being disqualified as a servant of God.

3. I can reject rejection because I know that every authority is ultimately accountable to God.

Prov 21:1 In the Lord's hand the king's heart is a stream of water that he channels toward all who please him.

Prov 21:1 NKJV The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, Like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

Sometimes doctors and rulers pronounce things over us, and we make the mistake of agreeing with them instead of rejecting their report and receiving God's report. Rejecting rejection involves rejecting the enemy's report. Sometimes when officials tell us that it will take 6 months to receive a particular document, we need to reject it in the spirit and announce something else. The enemy wants you to agree with their report.

Do you believe that God can whisper things to leaders and change their minds?

Do you believe that people in authority can be removed by God without notice?

Dan 4:28-34 All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 he said, "Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?" 31 Even as the words were on his lips, a voice came from heaven, "This is what is decreed for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your royal authority has been taken from you. 32 You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes." 33 Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird. 34 At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

4. I can reject rejection because I understand the favour of God.

God's favour means that certain things are waived on my behalf. New laws paving the way for others, can be created on my behalf. When people say to me, "It won't work" I can say back to them, "Your story doesn't have to be my story."

The five daughters of Zelophehad influenced the making of a new law by God to allow women to own land. The daughters of Zelophehad lived at the end of the Israelites' exodus from Egypt as they prepared to enter the Promised Land. Prior to this, women didn't inherit land and were not numbered like men (military). Yet here we see these daughters being named and God declaring they should receive an inheritance.

Numbers 27:1-7 The daughters of Zelophehad son of Hepher, the son of Gilead, the son of Makir, the son of Manasseh, belonged to the clans of Manasseh son of Joseph. The names of the daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milkah and Tirzah. They came forward 2 and stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders and the whole assembly at the entrance to the tent of meeting and said, 3 "Our father died in the wilderness. He was not among Korah's followers, who banded together against the LORD, but he died for his own sin and left no sons.

4 Why should our father's name disappear from his clan because he had no son? Give us property among our father's relatives." 5 So Moses brought their case before the LORD, 6 and the LORD said to him, 7 "What Zelophehad's daughters are saying is right. You must certainly give them property as an inheritance among their father's relatives and give their father's inheritance to them.

God does not discriminate like man does. There are laws in South Africa today that are Xenophobic and inherently discriminatory. Reject the rejection.

5. I can reject rejection because I understand that it is often ordained by God for His purposes.

God has either sent it or allowed it. What the enemy has meant for harm God can use for good.

Gen 50:18-20 His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. 19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Many of us fail to move on from the sting of rejection because we can't see God's great fruit that comes from it. Joseph was so aligned with the purpose of God which was bigger for him than personal injury.

Persecution was what caused the early church to scatter but that's how the Gospel spread.

I know someone who received a prophetic word that God was using her parents to come against her because of what He wanted to birth in her. **Your rejection of me is getting me into my purpose.** Let's reflect on how Jesus dealt with the potential sting of betrayal.

Luke 22:20-23 In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. 21 But the hand of him who is going to betray me is with mine on the table. 22 The Son of Man will go as it has been decreed. But woe to that man who betrays him!" 23 They began to question among themselves which of them it might be who would do this.

Mt 26:14-16 14 Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests 15 and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver. 16 From then on Judas watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

Jesus knew in advance that He would be betrayed. He even knew who it was. He was still troubled in His spirit by it, but He knew it was part of the package. **Many of us are thrown by betrayal and ultimately stung by it because we never thought it would be part of the package.**

John 13:18-27 18 "I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfil this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned[a] against me.' 19 "I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am. 20 Very truly I tell you, whoever accepts anyone I send accepts me; and whoever accepts me accepts the one who sent me." 21 After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." 22 His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. 23 One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. 24 Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." 25 Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" 26 Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. 27 As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him.

This is the impact of Satan entering into someone. If you have wondered why someone would suddenly turn their back on you or lie about you, this is what demonic influence can do to someone.

There are different types of betrayal. Sometimes it's when you are bypassed for something you felt you deserved. Other times it's when you have poured yourself into someone and subconsciously expect some loyalty in return, but you don't get it. When you love with no strings attached it will help you to not feel betrayed. We sometimes feel betrayed because of misplaced expectations.

If you have been falsely accused or betrayed, embrace God's story of your life. Don't embrace peace only when you are vindicated but be content with God's acceptance and your identity in Him. I pray that you may recognize God's purposes in your life and let that be bigger than your personal injury. I pray that you may continue to walk in God's favour, believing that policies and laws can be waived on your behalf. I pray that you will always know God as your source of promotion and be content with His voice and His story in your life. May this be the reality that displaces other voices and opinions.