

Yvonne Shelton 2024 Q3, Lesson #5: Rejection & Reception  
Wednesday, July 31

Interesting Points from Mark 6:1-6, (Matt. 13:53-58; Luke 4:16-30)

## I. **How Jesus was perceived by His countrymen**

A. In Mark 5, Jesus raised Jairus's 12 yr.old daughter from the dead. When He told the mourners that she was sleeping, they ridiculed Him. He put them out (except for the girl's parents). He resurrected her, and those who were with Him were "overcome with great amazement."

B. He went from those who were "overcome with great amazement" to the "astonishment" of His home townsmen who heard Him read in the synagogue. At first, I thought that "astonished" meant "impressed." No, they were offended! Who did this man think He was? We know his background, his siblings, his lack of formal education, etc. "Men resent it as a kind of slight on themselves that the other, who was one of them but yesterday, should be so far above them today." The elders of Nazareth had seen Jesus grow up, and to them He was just 'the carpenter's son'. The more important people had known the humbleness of His home, and could not adjust themselves to look up to Him, instead of down. His peers in age would find their boyish memories too strong for accepting Him as a prophet.

A. Jesus was rejected by the religious community, by His family, by His countrymen. Is.53:2-3 says: "For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,  
And as a root out of dry ground.  
He has no form or comeliness;  
And when we see Him,  
*There is no beauty that we should desire Him.*

He is despised and rejected by men,  
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;  
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”

## **II. Rejection is a potent issue.**

**A.** The definition of rejection is “the act of refusing to accept, use, or believe something or someone. “Interpersonal rejection ranks among the most potent and distressing events that people experience. Rejection by a loved one, a romantic relationship, ostracism, stigmatization, job termination, and other kinds of rejection have the power to compromise the quality of a person's life.”

1. Ann’s story: a life of rejection. Her mother, Lynn, was 14 when she gave birth to Ann, and around 16 or 17 when she conceived Ann’s baby brother. Lynn was a wayward, rebellious teen who was unruly. Her mother decided to send her to a home for wayward minors. The police were called, and little Ann, about 3 yrs. of age was standing in the yard, a few feet away from her mother. As the policeman approached Lynn, she screamed, I can’t leave my baby!” Ann headed in her direction, and she pushed past her to run into the house to see the baby boy one more time. Ann never recovered from that rejection. It was 16 years before she saw her mother again. During those years, Ann was bounced from one foster home to another, never feeling loved or cared for. She grew up tough, and had some children of her own. Ann’s tough exterior hid a life of pain and rejection. One day, a coworker told Ann about Jesus, and Ann decided that she wanted to take Bible studies. She fell in love with Jesus, and got baptized into the SDA church. No longer did she feel rejected or unloved! No longer was she unwanted.

**C. Because He suffered so much rejection, Jesus will not reject us.** In John 6:37, He said, “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me, I will by no means cast out.” Jesus is saying to us that whoever comes to Him WILL NOT BE REJECTED by Him! What a Savior!

### **III. The Relationship between Faith & Miracles**

A. In Mark 5, Jesus had healed the woman with an issue of blood. This healing took place when Jesus wasn't even focusing on her! She touched the hem of his garment, amidst the pressing of a throng of people. What was different about her touch? It was the touch of faith! How do we know? Because Jesus said in verse 34 of Mark 5, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be healed of your affliction.” It is FAITH in God that activates the miracles of God. That is why in verse 5 of Mark 6, it states that Jesus could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. And He marvelled because of their unbelief....”

### **IV. Jesus walked in His Divine Destiny and so can we**

1. In Luke 4:16-30, we see an expanded version of Mark 6:1-6. Here, Jesus goes into the synagogue on the Sabbath, as His custom was, and stood up to read. He read from Is. 61:1-3: “The Spirit of the Lord God *is* upon Me,  
Because the Lord has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord,  
And the day of vengeance of our God;  
To comfort all who mourn,

To console those who mourn in Zion,  
To give them beauty for ashes,  
The oil of joy for mourning,  
The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;  
That they may be called trees of righteousness,  
The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”

This was a declaration of Christ’s Divine Destiny, a personal manifesto of God’s plan for His life of service. We each have a Divine Destiny—God’s plan for our lives. Ps. 139:14-16 states:

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And *that* my soul knows very well.  
My frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
*And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.  
Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When *as yet there were* none of them.

## **V. Christ, the Third Cord: Significance of pairs**

**A.** Jesus knew that the mission could be very lonely if done alone, so He sent the disciples out in pairs. Witnessing together, healing the sick, casting out demons; sharing the days’ work with one another could also have a reinforcing effect on their faith.

Ecc.4:9-12 says:

“Two are better than one,  
Because they have a good reward for their labor.  
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.  
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,  
For he has no one to help him up.  
Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm;  
But how can one be warm alone?  
Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him.

And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Jesus is the Third Cord in marriages, in friendships, and in the mission of His disciples.

**CLOSING THOUGHT: Jesus was rejected by those who knew Him best. When faced with rejection and hurt, we should remind ourselves that Jesus will never leave us or forsake us.**