

Life Lessons

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From Rejection Comes New Direction

At one point or another we've all experienced some kind of rejection in our lives. If you're in sales, you have dealt with rejection from your customers. If you are a young person, you've probably had some rejection by someone you loved. Rejection may have come from your own parents or family members. Rejection is a continuous and universal problem. That is why it is extremely important for us to handle rejection in the right way.

One of the greatest examples of rejection is found in the life of **Joseph**. (Gen. 37-45). He was the favorite of his father and it created jealousy among his brothers. They rejected Joseph and sold him to a bunch of businessmen. Falsely accused, in the prison, Joseph was forgotten and rejected by the butler whom he helped to get back his job as the king's cup bearer. Years later when Joseph met up with the butler again, he didn't have a chip on his shoulder. He didn't say, "How could you forget me and leave me to die in that dungeon?" **Joseph understood that from rejection comes a new direction. Joseph established in his heart that God would never reject him. Instead, he recognized God's Hand in the midst of the rejections he faced. Joseph learned to accept rejection in the right way. He didn't seek revenge or get angry but he kept hoping in God's mercy. And that's what put Joseph second in command to the king.**

If we don't handle rejection properly, it can lead to loneliness, self-pity, depression, and even suicide. How we deal with rejection will determine where we will end up in life. Some of the most famous people in history started their journey with severe rejection by their closest friends and relatives.

Beethoven's music teacher declared him hopeless at composing. When you consider Beethoven was deaf, you'd probably agree with his teacher that he had no future in music. But you see, **man looks on the outside but God looks on the inside. (1 Sam. 16:7)**. He has deposited extraordinary gifts and talents in you. Rejection from his teacher became the biggest motivator in Beethoven's life that eventually made him to be one of the greatest composers in the history of music.

Friend, no matter who rejected you, don't lose hope in your future. Your mistakes (by choice and by ignorance) that have kept you bound, in fear and even made you suicidal at times, have no power over your life. **When we turn from our wrong ways, He not only covers our sins; but also eradicates their very existence from our lives. (Isa. 43:25)**. Don't fear rejection. Look at it from a different perspective. Because out of your rejection will come the greatest victory you've ever known.

God knows we'll not volunteer to put ourselves through pain, rejection and reproach in order to get to His best for our lives. It is human to enjoy comfort, predictability, and safety. **A seed, until it is planted in the ground and covered with heavy soil, it cannot germinate and blossom. Likewise, God allows some betrayal, rejection and problems that stretches us, quicker than we want, to discover our ultimate destiny.** It is in these trying times, we grow the most. God doesn't send hard bondage on us but He uses it to define and direct our path to greatness.

A missionary's daughter sat in the church pew while **Billy Graham** was preaching. Ruth, who later became his wife, told how she felt the urge to run out of the building. It wasn't because of any conviction from the preaching; but she thought to herself, "This is the worst preaching I've ever heard in my life!" Billy Graham's preaching! **Do you see how the rejection of others bears no weight in what God has called you to be? Your value in the Hand of the Creator is priceless. (John 3:16)**.

So how do we cope with rejection? Most people perceive rejection as the ending. But in reality it is the beginning of your true destiny. **Friend if you allow your rejection to find a new direction in the Hands of God, one day, the same people who rejected you may bow before you as did Joseph's brothers. If you're feeling rejected, down and depressed today, your best days are right ahead of you. Shake off your rejection and put on a fresh attitude of faith, joy and service; and you'll see what your life can become. Amen?**