



Overcoming Rejection – Message 1

Warm-up

From what we know of David's youth, he was the youngest son, a "dreamer" shepherd boy, and perhaps often left on his own. What's one unique role you had in the family you were brought up in? (For example oldest, baby, funny person, organizer, peacemaker, black sheep.)

Overview

Welcome to our new series entitled **Imperfect: The Life God Uses**. Over these next four weeks, we take a look into the life of David in Scripture. Although David is deeply flawed in many ways, God still uses him mightily. Together we'll discover how despite our own insecurities, failures, and fears, God wants to use us to accomplish great works for His kingdom. Today we explore how to overcome a common experience that leads to these imperfections in our lives, **rejection**.

Word and Application

Who Does God Choose to Use?

When God searches the earth looking for potential impact players, He is not looking for perfect people, He is looking for people like you and me, ordinary people. **Read James 2:5, Isaiah 29:14, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, and Psalm 8:2.**

- Imagine that David was alive today, how would you describe his character and personality to someone?
- When the world looks for game-changers, what criteria is most sought after? Contrast this with the type of person God is looking for.
- Share a time when the Lord used you to do something incredible, despite a flaw or weakness of yours that could have hindered the outcome.

Hungry and Humble

In spite of insecurities and flaws, there were two qualities in David that pleased the Lord. David was **hungry** and he was **humble**.

- **Read Acts 13:22, Acts 7:46, and 1 Kings 15:5.** How do these passages demonstrate David's hunger for the ways of God? Do you find yourself hungering for other things more than for connection with God? How can you develop a deeper hunger for the things of God?
- The following verses on how David displayed humility as God's servant. Read **Psalm 89:19-20, Psalm 78:70, and 2 Samuel 7:8.** Why do you think this trait is so important to God? Can a humble leader have just as much impact in the world?

Overcoming Rejection

Read the account of David's anointing in **1 Samuel 16:1-13**.

Before David was anointed King, he grew up with rejection from his father and brothers. If allowed, rejection can become an obstacle to our relationship with the Lord. Fear of man, bitterness, insecurities can take hold when the lies of rejection are established in our life.

Three Response to Rejection

1. **Performance and Perfectionism**

We all feel the sting of rejection in our lives. Rejection can drive you to a never-ending search for affirmation and self-worth when you began to believe the lies that you are not "good enough."

2. **Rebellion and Despondency**

When some people feel that sting of rejection, particularly in childhood, they build walls to protect themselves from potential further hurts. They become dominated by fear and rebellion becomes apparent as they withdraw or become critical and competitive. Inwardly they are full of insecurity, loneliness, fear, self-pity and really vanity. This rejection often leads to the loss of self-value.

3. **Brokenness and Security.**

Read 142:2 and Psalm 34:17-19. A final response to rejection is to share your pain and expose your brokenness to God. The best thing brokenness can do is to drive us to God. And He hears us and begins to heal us.

Life Challenge

Of the Three Responses to Rejection, which do you most often lean towards? What practical steps can you take to get to the third response, Brokenness and Security?

Prayer

Pray for the specific needs of the group.