

HOW TO HANDLE REJECTION

Text: Psalm 55:12-14

Key Word: Rejection

Key Thought: Rejection Is Able to Be Handled Properly

One of the most difficult emotional stresses that can be brought against us is that of rejection. This will affect even the strongest of people. It makes one feel empty and useless, unworthy of even being alive. It can bring about disastrous effects if we don't overcome it.

*** G. Campbell Morgan was one of a hundred and fifty young men who sought entrance into the Wesleyan ministry in 1888. He had passed his written exam but faced the test of giving a trial sermon in front of a panel. When the results were released, Morgan's name was among the hundred and five who were rejected.

He wired his father with one word: **"Rejected."** Then he sat down and wrote in his diary: *"Very dark. Everything seems still. He knoweth best."*

The reply to his wire was quick to arrive. It read, **"Rejected on earth, accepted in heaven. Dad."**

As G.Campbell Morgan went on to prove, rejection on earth is often of little consequence. As his father wisely recognized, **rejection on earth is of no consequence in heaven.** ***

Michael Green
"Illustrations for Biblical Preaching"
#1122, p. 300

Rejection is deceptive. Legally it can be a single event, but psychologically it can become a never-ending chain of events, relocations, and a radical shifting of relationships strung over a process of bitter wounds.

"Outward trouble is to the Christian what tempests are to the oak tree. They serve to make the roots deeper. Trouble can temporarily rob us of tranquility or a smooth, easy life, but the only thing they CAN'T take from us is our right to choose what our attitude will be."

Lloyd John Ogilvie

It is believed that this Psalm came about as a result of the conspiracy against king David by his son Absalom and Ahithophel. Ahithophel quickly became the Judas of the Old Testament. During the four years that this rebellious conspiracy was forming, David applied a number of important principles that we can benefit from when we find ourselves in the same situation. During times of turmoil, when danger lurks in every unsuspected haven, when trust becomes a fallen word and false reports and slander is circulating into the minds of those we once associated with, it is then that we must put on the whole armor of God to withstand the unrelentless attacks that can come our way.

Through this Psalm, King David Leads Us Through Several Important Steps to Become an Overcomer When Rejected by Those We Don't Suspect.

I. The Step of Anguish (Psalm 55:2-9)

II. The Step of Anger (Psalm 55:10-17)

III. The Step of Assurance (Psalm 55:18-24)

I. The Step of Anguish (Psalm 55:2-9)

There will come a day when the prince of terrors will summon a portion of his forces to spread themselves out against you. It is during this time that even the strongest of men will succumb to their inner fears and insecurities. **God understands that we will have these days of trouble and He doesn't attempt to have us bypass these important moments of growth.**

*“The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.
24. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.” - KJV*

“If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm;” - NIV

Psalm 37:23,24

I'm sure that the words of Shimei son of Gera as he pelted David and his officials with stones rang into the heart of the wounded king.

“The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!”

II Samuel 16:8

I. The Step of Anguish (Psalm 55:2-9) (Contd.)

David responded with many of his human tendencies - much like we do!

*“My thoughts trouble me and I am distraught . . .
4. My heart is in anguish within me . . .
5. Fears and trembling have beset me . . .”*

Psalm 55:2,4,5

The Bible makes it clear that it is not sinful to have anguish in our hearts over the rejection we feel from those who have been closest to us. During the Last Supper Jesus admitted,

“He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me.”

John 13:18

A short time later Jesus crossed the same brook of Kidron that king David had escaped to and ascended up the Mount of Olives to pour out His heart to His heavenly Father.

*“And he began to be deeply distressed and troubled.
34. ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death’ he said to them . . .”*

Mark 14:33,34

Both King Jesus and king David struggled with the anguish in their hearts. Both faced rejection. Both had their Judas. Both felt the weight of relentless hostility.

“They bring misery crashing down on me . . .”

*Psalm 55:3
Jerusalem Bible*

In escaping from his Jerusalem (city of peace) palace, David likely looked up and saw the flight of the graceful doves lifted high and above the troubles of life and he desired to escape the treachery of those he once trusted.

This is simply a natural step along the way. **This is not a place to abide for long periods of time.** It is simply a passing stage in handling rejection.

II. The Step of Anger (Psalm 55:10-17)

Anger is one of the most misunderstood emotions we have. It's not wise to pray for the removal of anger of anger from your life - it is God-given. **But you can and must pray for the proper expression of it in order that you do not sin.**

*“In your anger do not sin’ : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry,
27. And do not give the devil a foothold.”*

Ephesians 5:26,27

King David had to deal with **“Ahithophel”** which means **“brother of folly”** Jesus had to face His **“Judas”** which means **“praised”** and **“Iscaiot”** which comes from an Arabic word which means **“to be attached or devoted to someone.”** In other words, Ahithophel lived up to his name while Judas was deceptive. What he appeared to be was not what he truly was. These are the most difficult to deal with. It is much more difficult facing an “angel of light” than a “roaring lion” although both contain a great measure of deception. **Open enemies are not as shrewd as faithless friends.** Ahithophel was recorded as king David's counselor (I Chronicles 27:33). No wonder David reacted as he did to this turncoat.

*“But David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.
31. Now David had been told, ‘Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom.’ So David prayed, ‘**O LORD, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness.**”*

II Samuel 15; 30,31

“If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him.

13. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend,

***14. With whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God.**”*

Psalm 55:12-14

“Let us not be surprised at the corruptions and disorders of the church on earth, but long to see the New Jerusalem, where there is no violence or strife, no mischief or guile.”

*Matthew Henry
Job to Malachi, p. 190-191*

II. The Step of Anger (Psalm 55:10-17) (Contd.)

Ahithophel should have been one who brought just counsel and words that could be trusted, but instead he was a Counselor of Rebellion. David's anger began to rise against this **worker of iniquity** as did the prophet Jeremiah.

*“Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, ‘Listen, Hananiah! The LORD has not sent you, **yet you have persuaded this nation to trust in lies.***

*16. Therefore, this is what the LORD says: ‘I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This very year you are going to die, because **you have preached rebellion against the LORD.***

17. In the seventh month of that same year, Hananiah the prophet died.”

Jeremiah 28:15,16

We need to constantly have an anger toward sin and its effects in the lives of entire nations. You may have been rejected because of your stand for righteousness in this sinful world. In chapter 29, Jeremiah prophesied against Shemaiah who was also a Counselor of Rebellion. **These false prophets faced the wrath or anger of God.**

If and when you are rejected for standing up for what you know is right, don't try to take things into your own hands. Let God vindicate you.

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord.”

Romans 12:19

Anger is another poor place to stop in your steps of recovery when rejected for doing what is right. We must reach the next step in order to overcome the cunning schemes of the enemy.

III. The Step of Assurance (Psalm 55:18-24)

God does not often deliver us from our enemies before they strike us with their weapons of warfare. Instead, God gives strength to stand during the times of trouble.

*“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; **he will never let the righteous fall** . . .
23 . . . *But as for me, I will trust in you.*”*

Psalms 55:22,23

III. The Step of Assurance (Psalm 55:18-24) (Contd.)

*“Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop.” -
KJV*

“An anxious heart weighs a man down.” - NIV

Proverbs 12:25

Jesus was anointed to heal the brokenhearted, and to set at liberty those who had been bruised and oppressed (Luke 4:18). One of His most famous ways of doing this was by offering assurance. We can put our trust in the **providence, power and prudence** of the Lord. He has proven that He can bear our sorrows and He is acquainted with our griefs. **When shall we learn to trust God to govern the world which He has redeemed by His precious blood?**

6933 The God who is Enough

*“Tis far, far better to let him choose
The way that we should take;
If only we leave our lives to Him
He will guide without mistake
We, in our blindness, would never choose
A pathway dark and rough,
And so we should Always find in Him,
‘The God who is Enough.’”*

Paul Lee Tan

*“Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations”
p. 1526*

“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem

10. Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand.

11. After he has suffered, he will see the light of life (Masoretic text: He will see the fruit of his suffering / and will be satisfied) and be satisfied; by his knowledge (or by knowledge of him) my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”

Isaiah 53:3,10,11

III. The Step of Assurance (Psalm 55:18-24) (Contd.)

A radio announcer once asked Leo Derocher, manager of the New York Giants, “*Barring the unforeseen, Leo will your club get the pennant?*” Back came Derocher’s reply, ‘***There ain’t gonna be no unforeseen.***’

Paul Lee Tan
“*Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations*”
6937 Epigram, p. 1526

The same is true with God. Nothing catches Him off guard. We can place our full assurance in Him and He will never let us down.

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Date: Sept 5/21

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Once Again - F#m

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*Psalm 37:23,24; II Samuel 16:8; Psalm 55:2,4,5; John 13:18; Mark 14:33,34
Psalm 55:3 (Jerusalem Bible)*

II. The Step of Anger (Psalm 55:10-17)

*Ephesians 5:26,27; I Chronicles 27:33; II Samuel 15; 30,31; Psalm 55:12-14;
Jeremiah 28:15,16; Romans 12:19*

III. The Step of Assurance (Psalm 55:18-24)

Psalm 55:22,23; Proverbs 12:25 (KJV & NIV); Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:3,10,11