

## ***The Reality of Rejection***

Matthew 13:53-58

### **Sermon Discussion Questions**

**June 4, 2023**

1. Do you struggle to understand Jesus as a human - a person with friends, siblings, and other people he knew growing up? How does this reality highlight the depth of Jesus' understanding of us, including the rejection we face?
2. Picture yourself hanging on the cross being rejected by God the Father like Jesus was. Try to describe the emotions that would be going through your head at that moment. Now, think about someone else, Jesus, willingly taking your place on that cross you deserved. How can this give you perspective in your own experience with rejection?
3. In what area in your life today are you rejecting Jesus? How do you think that makes him feel, seeing as he took the rejection you deserved and satisfied it on the cross? What should your response be to that in light of the message this morning?
4. Have you ever let a fear of rejection stop you from following Jesus? What are some stumbling blocks Satan puts in our way in the face of rejection to distract us from God's acceptance? How does the idea that rejection is a part of following Christ challenge that?
5. Do you feel accepted in the family of God because of Jesus' rejection? Do you think of acceptance when you think of the family of God? How can you help others to feel accepted here through your shared faith in Jesus?
6. Where have you seen rejection in your life as a beginning, rather than an ending? How has God use rejection to lead you, shape you, or point you to Jesus? What words of encouragement from scripture can you speak to those around you who are in the midst of rejection in light of your experience? How can this help you refocus on Christ? Does this experience allow for you to better trust God in your current circumstances? Upon reflection, how can you praise God for what he has done through your rejection?
7. **Read Ephesians 1:3-14.** What is God speaking to you today in regards to this message from our Sunday sermon? How can you apply what you have heard, discussed, or reflected upon since the service?