

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Fear // Fear of Rejection

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Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: If money were no object, what would you do this summer?

Reading: John 15:18-27

Outline:

- I. The reality of rejection
 - a. Our fears of rejection lead us to pursue things that we think will lead to acceptance
 - b. We're called to respond to this fear with faithfulness but instead normally respond with capitulation, isolation, or conquest in an attempt to resolve the suffering it brings
Q: *What do these responses look like in our everyday interactions?*
- II. The reason for rejection
 - a. Rejection is inevitable because Christ was rejected first and we are made in His image
 - b. It's critical to our calling that we evangelize, but we must do so also in Christlikeness. It's one thing to be rejected for being a jerk, another for being too much like Jesus
Q: *How is our work God's work?*
- III. The respite in rejection
 - a. The Holy Spirit was sent to help and comfort us through fears like this. This doesn't resolve the rejection we receive from the world, but reminds us we're never alone within it
 - b. We're called to carry the cross of suffering and rejection, but this isn't a heavy weight because we don't have to carry that cross alone
Q: *How can rejection shape the way we walk with God?*

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) What things are you pursuing that help you be more accepted?
- 2) What would it look like to respond in faithfulness to these fears?
- 3) What does insensitive evangelizing look like and how can that lead to rejection?
- 4) How can His yoke and burden be light when we are also called to carry the cross of suffering?
- 5) What ways can you remind yourself of Christ's nearness in the face of rejection?

Suggestions for further study:

- 1 Peter 3:15-16 **Q: *What does Peter call us to do?***
- Matthew 11:28-30 **Q: *How can Christ's yoke and burden bring us joy and peace?***

Closing Prayer:

Gracious God, It is far too easy to be moved by fear of being rejected, hated, and suffering. We need your spirit and the courage you provide to faithfully live as your people and follow after your son Jesus Christ. With this courage, send us into the world to love as you've loved, and show mercy, kindness, and forgiveness as we've received it. Work this in us by the power of your spirit. That our lives would faithfully reflect the life of your son Jesus for us. We pray this in His name, Amen.