

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV) – *“I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name*

I. Previous Sessions

- A. Understanding the Open Door
- B. Stop Identifying with the Curse
- C. Always Identify with the Blessing.
- D. Have you asked for it?

- 1. The Bible speaks of the necessity of asking.

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV) – *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you*

- 2. The children of Israel left Egypt with gold, silver and jewels. However, they had to ask for it.

II. What do you do when the answer is no?

A. Rejection Defined

- 1. **The dismissal or refusing of an idea or proposal.**
- 2. **It is to deny**

B. Considerations that must be given to Rejection.

- 1. **Everyone will experience a “NO” throughout life.**
It is unavoidable.
 - a. When you are denied the job.
 - b. When you are denied the promotion.
 - c. If you are broken up with.

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- d. If you were not picked for a team.
- e. If you did not receive the scholarship.
- f. Everyone has to deal with rejection.
- g. The average sales agent in telemarketing experiences 180 no's before finally getting a yes.
- h. 80% of people quit after their first no. *Performance based marketing group*: 10% of salespeople make it to the 8th no and make over 80% of the sales.

2. We must learn how to react the answer is NO.

- a. Common reactions to being rejected is *anxiety, fear, guilt, shame, anger, bitterness*.
- b. Some have become *INFECTED* by rejection.
Dharius Daniels – "That timidity and apprehensiveness that will not allow you to make full use of your gifts and talents and skills, that part of you that allows you to stand on the side lines waiting on someone to call on you instead of you stepping up – could be rejection infection"
- c. It is also possible to allow "NO" to keep you from trying again.
It is possible to allow rejection to re-shape you into someone that God never intended for you to be.
- d. In regard to last week's session, if you get a "NO", you may be tempted to stop asking. RESULTS = to settle/to stop/to become inactive/to stop growing and moving forward.
- e. If we do not learn how to appropriately respond to NO, there will be unavoidable consequences.
Although God's door of blessing is open to us, we will allow the fear of rejection to keep us from entering.

III. A Biblical Perspective on Rejection

- A. Matthew 10:11-15 (NKJV) – ¹¹"Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. ¹²And when you go into a household, greet it. ¹³If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. ¹⁵Assuredly, I say to**

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you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!

1. **When you enter a city, look for those who will receive you.**
 - a. Greet them.
 - b. Bless them.
 - c. Stay with them

2. **When Jesus gave these instructions to his disciples, He also included instructions for dealing with those who would reject them. Why? He knew they would not always get a YES, sometimes they would get a NO.**

If they did not know how to deal with “NO”. They would never fulfill their mission. They would never experience the fullness of His blessing for their life.

3. **When they do not receive you, let your peace return to you!**
 - a. Many have left their peace behind when someone told them no.
 - b. You entered in peace, but after you asked and didn't receive the receptivity you desired, YOUR PEACE was left behind.
 - c. We must learn to always hold our peace.

Exodus 14:14 (NKJV) – *The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*

Exodus 14:14 (NLT) – *Stay Calm*

Exodus 14:14 (ESV) – *Only be silent*

Exodus 14:14 (GNT) – *Keep still*
 - d. When you experience a “NO”, be sure that you stay calm, keep still and hold your peace.

4. **Shake the dust off your feet.**
 - a. The tendency will be to carry the dust from rejection experiences into our future.
 - b. Be sure to shake off the negative experiences so you can move on through the open door. *There will always be some things that we need to shake off!*

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5. **Why did Jesus emphasize this?**
 - a. **People stop pursuing because of rejection?**
Pursuing dreams/goals/vision
 - b. **People give up their assignment because of rejection.**
The disciples could have given up their mission.

B. The Example of Jesus

John 1:11 (NKJV) – *He came to His ^[a]own, and His ^[b]own did not receive Him*

Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV) – *He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him*

1. **When He came to His hometown of Nazareth.**
 - a. **Many miracles had been occurring as recorded in Mark Chapter 5.**
 - b. **In Mark chapter 6, Jesus is rejected in His hometown.**

Mark 6:1-6 (NKJV) – ¹Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. ²And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, “Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! ³Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?” So they were offended at Him. ⁴But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house.” ⁵Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

 - Jesus had just come through places where the people had been very receptive.
 - When he gets to his own people – they reject him saying NO to his message.

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- Mark records this event just prior to Jesus given the instruction on how to deal with rejection.
- Jesus' instructions were birthed out of his own experience of Rejection.
- Jesus knew that every door doesn't lead to His assignment.
- A closed door of rejection doesn't mean that your assignment is over – what it means is that you need to look for another door.
- He refused to allow one city's "NO". to keep him from his assignment.
- He immediately went out from them into the villages.
- **Matthew 9:35 (NKJV)** – *Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people*

IV. Closing Statement

- A. When you face rejection, do not allow it to dictate your future.**
- B. When you face rejection in one place go to another. *Find your Village.***
- C. You need buoyancy – the ability to recover quickly – the ability to bounce back – an unwillingness to allow what knocked me down to keep me down.**
- D. Remind yourself – If God be for you – Who can be against you!**