



Jesus and the Wound of Rejection

Matthew 27:27-31

The writer Madeleine L'Engle once wrote, “We are every age we have ever been... Nothing is ever lost. All the experiences of our lives remain with us and make us who we are” (*Walking on Water: Reflections on Faith and Art, 1980*).

This is especially true of rejection.

Neuroscience now tells us the brain processes rejection like physical pain. If left unchecked, we can begin to expect rejection.

What we do with the trauma of rejection matters. Because rejection doesn't only happen to us... it stays with us.

But Scripture reveals something astonishing: God did not stand outside our rejection. He entered it. He took it upon Himself. He absorbed it.

So much so that the prophet Isaiah describes Him as “despised and rejected by men.”

Jesus is rejected. But his rejection was not the final word. And because of him, our rejection does not have to be final. Picture the scene.

Jesus— whom heaven adored— is rejected by men of earth.

Matthew tells us the whole battalion is there. Yet an even greater battalion is watching from heaven.

What happens here is rejection turned into entertainment.

The soldiers stage a mock coronation, using whatever props they can find to parody Rome's royal ceremony.

- **A scarlet robe** is thrown across his torn back.
- Roman emperors embroidered their titles on their robes.
- “On his robe and on his thigh a name is written `King of kings and Lord of lords’” (Rev. 19:16), of Jesus.
- The King of kings is mocked by mere mortals.
- **A thorny branch** is twisted into a circle and forced onto his head. Thorns first appear in Genesis as part of the curse. Now the curse becomes his crown. And because of that, Revelation declares: “On his head are many diadems” (Rev. 19:12).
- **A fragile reed** is placed in his right hand—a parody of a king's scepter. But Revelation says of Christ:
“He will rule them with a rod of iron” (Rev. 19:15).
They place a reed in his hands, not knowing he rules the world.

- **And then they kneel** before him in mock homage:
“Hail, King of the Jews!”
Not knowing that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:11).

And Jesus endured it. Willingly. He stepped into our rejection.

And in him, our rejection is not the end of our story.

Because Jesus stepped into rejection:

- Our rejection of God can end. The greatest rejection in the universe was not God rejecting us— it was humanity rejecting God. And on the cross Jesus absorbed that rejection so that we could be reconciled to Him.
- The rejection we experience does not make us bitter but can make us better. Bring your rejection to Jesus!
- Because the rejected King welcomes the rejected, we must welcome them too.