

Dealing with Rejection

The Books of 1 & 2 Samuel

Have you ever experienced rejection in your life? What was that like?

- I have had a few experiences of my own (Homecoming, baseball, house, pastor)!

The books of 1 & 2 Samuel are filled with examples of rejection!

- **1 Sam. 1** – Hannah felt rejected because she was barren!
- **1 Sam. 2** – Eli, the High Priest, had to deal with his 2 sons, Hophni & Phinehas, being rejected as fellow priests!
- **1 Sam. 8** – The prophet Samuel had to deal with his 2 sons, Joel & Abijah, being rejected as his successors!
- **1 Sam. 13 & 15** – King Saul is rejected as King b/c of his disobedience!
- **1 Sam. 16** – 7 out of 8 of Jesse's sons were rejected as the next king!
- **1 Sam. 18 & 19** – Saul rejects David as his successor & tries to kill him!
- **1 Sam. 19** – Jonathan, deals with the fear of rejection by his father, Saul, because of his love & protection over his best friend David!
- **1 Sam. 24 & 26** – David rejects the opportunity to kill King Saul twice!
- **2 Sam. 11** – David's attempt to cover up his sin with Bathsheba is met with rejection by her husband Uriah, unknowingly!
- **2 Samuel 15** – David experiences the rejection of his own son, Absalom, who tries to overthrow him!

Rejection is a very difficult thing to endure, especially involving those closest to us! But the greatest rejections story in 1 & 2 Samuel I haven't shared yet!

1 Samuel 8:1-9 – The greatest rejection story in these 2 books, is the rejection of God as king, by His own people! God's people wanted an earthly king over a heavenly one, even after God's words of warning – **1 Sam. 8:10-20!**

What a slap in the face!

- To Samuel, as the spokesman and representative of God!
- To God, after all He had done in leading/providing/fighting for them!

What must God have felt in that moment, in the midst of such rejection?

Much of the rejection we experience in life is often tied to our own shortcomings!

But God is perfect, & yet He too experiences rejection, by imperfect people no less!

What are we to learn about rejection from these 2 books filled with examples?

- 1) Rejection is a reality of life for all of us, even God!
 - 2) When rejection comes, we need to ask "why?"!
 - 3) When feeling rejected, we need to still honor God!
- **Hannah** - God answered Hannah's prayer in the midst of her rejection, & she honored Him by keeping her word!
 - **Eli** - honors God by taking young Samuel under his wing, when it should have been his own children!
 - **Samuel** - honors God by anointing a king, rather than trying to justify the leadership potential of his own children as judges of Israel!
 - **Saul** - dishonors God from the time he is rejected as king until his death!
 - **David's brothers** - had another chance to show their worthiness when they encountered Goliath, but instead they further confirmed Samuel's choice!
 - **Saul** - the end of his story could have been different, but his hardened heart could not accept rejection!
 - **Jonathon** - honors his friend, & His God, by opposing his father's decree.
 - **David** - honors God by honoring God's timing & God's anointed king! Even while Saul was trying to take David's life, and would keep trying!
 - **David** - sins grievously, but he honored God with a repentant heart! He became known as "**a man after God's own heart,**" even after his sin!
 - **Absalom** - David's son, died in his rebellion against the rightful king! He never got to sit upon the throne of David!

But there is a Son of David who will sit upon his throne forever – Jesus Christ

How will His reign come? Through rejection! He will be rejected by the whole world, but through that rejection, the greatest acceptance is secured for us forever! Because of Jesus, we will never have to fear God's rejection! Our place in the family, at the table, as co-heirs with Christ is forever certain!

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 - 6) When feeling rejected, we need to still _____!
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