

1 SAMUEL 10:17-27

REJECTION IS PART OF LIFE

God granted the Israelites' request and chose Saul as the first king of Israel. Samuel blessed Saul and poured some oil on Saul's head. Samuel anointed him then he was proclaimed king in front of many people at Mizpah. However, the Bible says there were some people who despised him and doubted that he would be a great king of Israel. Saul was rejected by some people.

Rejection may happen because this is part of life. It feels awful to be rejected. Do you know that Jesus was also rejected by some people from His own hometown? Jesus had been through some rejection. When you feel rejected, bring the pain to Jesus because He understands. Let Him heal and transform your heart and bring you to greater faith. Remember, rejection is not the measure of your true worth. When you are rejected, it does not mean that you are worthless. You are always precious in God's eyes.

On the other hand, as children of God, you and I should not be quick to judge and reject people. We should be quick to spread love to others. May the Holy Spirit guide you to be a blessing to others.

Key verse:

*John 15:18
If the world
hates you,
remember that it
hated Me first.*

Prayer

*Dear God, give
me strength to
deal with some
rejection in my
life and let me
spread love to
others. Amen.*



1 SAMUEL 13:5-14

GOD'S TIME

When Saul had reigned 2 years over Israel, there was a fight between Israel and the Philistines. The Israelites had heard that the Philistines were about to attack them. When they saw that they were in great danger, they trembled in fear.

Before going to battle, the Israelites would offer a burnt offering to God. It should be done only by some appointed people. In this case, Samuel was the one who had the authority to offer the burnt offering. Saul waited for Samuel for 7 days but Samuel still had not turned up. Seeing the fear of his people, Saul panicked! He overruled Samuel and offered the sacrifice himself. He had displeased God. Guess what, as soon as he had finished presenting the offering, Samuel arrived. If only Saul had waited a little bit more, he would not have lost God's favour.

God Himself holds the appointed time in His hands. God entirely knows your story from the beginning till the end. It means He perfectly knows what you want and what you need.

When God seems to be too slow, remember that He is always right on time. He is never late.

Key verse:

*Habakkuk 2:3b
It may seem
like a long
time before it
happens, but
be patient and
wait for it.
These things
will happen.
They will not be
delayed.*

Prayer

*Dear God,
although
sometimes I don't
understand Your
timing, I trust in
You. I want to
rely on Your ways
and Your perfect
timing. Amen.*



1 SAMUEL 16:14-23

MUSIC IS GOD'S GIFT

God was so disappointed with Saul due to his disobedience. God told Samuel that He would appoint a new king to replace Saul. Following God's command, Samuel anointed David. Since that day, David was filled with the Spirit of God. Contrary to this, the spirit of God had left Saul. An evil spirit had entered him and it troubled him so much. Till he found David. Each time the evil spirit troubled him, David would play his harp before Saul and then the evil spirit would leave Saul. Saul would feel better.

Music is one of God's greatest gifts to the world. Godly music and songs encourage and inspire the listeners. The beautiful melody and lyrics can comfort and strengthen a troubled heart. Unfortunately, the devil stole God's perfect idea of music, and tried to use music in his evil scheme. That's why there are some music and songs that bring a negative impact on the listeners' mind. The lyrics of the songs can promote evil thoughts as they influence the listeners to rebel, to be violent or to do all the things that are against the Bible. So, be careful, because what we listen to will influence us.

David loved to praise and worship God by singing and playing harp. Just like David, sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord because God is pleased with the songs that are from your heart.

Key verse:

Ephesians 5:19
Sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord.

Prayer

Dear God, thank You for the gift of music. I want to please You with my songs. You are worthy of our praise. Amen.



1 SAMUEL 17:45-51

DAVID VS GOLIATH

There was a giant from Philistine named Goliath. His height was around 2.84 meters. He challenged and mocked the Israelites. No one from the Israelites army dared to fight with him. David's 3 oldest brothers were in the army thus they stayed at the battlefield. One day, David brought some food to his brothers who were at the battlefield and he heard how Goliath mocked the Israelite army. He was so upset. He told Saul that he wanted to defeat Goliath because he knew that he had a mighty God to help him. David only brought a staff, five smooth stones from the stream and a sling. David took the stone, slung it and struck Goliath's forehead. The stone sank into his forehead and he fell face-down on the ground. David defeated Goliath just with a stone and a sling.

Goliath was an experienced warrior; David was a shepherd.

Goliath was big; David was small.

Goliath carried a sword, a spear and a javelin;

David carried a staff, 5 stones and a sling.

Goliath mocked at God; David trusted God.

God defeated Goliath through David because David trusted in Him. This is the same God who is with you today. When you trust in Him, God will help you to overcome your giants too.

Key verse:

*1 Samuel 17:45
David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied"*

Prayer

*Dear God, I surrender all my giants into Your hands. I trust in You to overcome all of them.
Amen*



1 SAMUEL 18:6-9; 19:9-10

JEALOUSY IS DANGEROUS

Since David defeated Goliath, he had become very popular. He joined the army and brought many victories to Israel. People started comparing David to Saul. During the victory celebration, they sang, "Saul has killed thousands of his enemies. But David has killed tens of thousands!" It caused jealousy in Saul's heart. Because of this, Saul tried to kill David on various occasions. Even though David knew Saul wanted him dead, David still respected him.

Jealousy is a feeling that everyone may feel at certain times but we have to take it under control. Do not let jealousy control you. Jealousy only results in harmful consequences on others and also on ourselves. Jealousy is dangerous. It makes people lose their trust. It destroys relationships. There is a way to control jealousy. Pray to God and be honest with Him and ask Him to help you to overcome it. You can talk to your parents or your trusted friend about it, too.

Just like David, when there are people who are jealous with you, do not hate them. Instead, have mercy on them, show God's love to them and pray for them.

Key verse:

*James 3:16
Where there is
jealousy and
selfishness,
there will be
confusion and
every kind of
evil.*

Prayer

*Dear God, set
me free from
jealousy. Please
give me Your
grace so that I
will be able to
overcome it.
Amen.*



1 SAMUEL 20:32-42

JESUS, YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND!

David and Jonathan were best friends. They even made a covenant to be best friends forever no matter what happened in the future. Covenant implies a bond that cannot be broken except by death. Such friendship does not expect anything in return. Rather, each of them thinks of what he can do for his friend to make him happy. When Jonathan found out that his father, Saul, wanted to kill David, he tried with all his might to protect David. He would not mind sacrificing his life to protect the life of David.

Jonathan was a true friend to David. Jonathan's genuine friendship shows a glimpse of Jesus. As our best friend, Jesus has made a very big sacrifice for us. His sacrifice shows that He is selfless and He puts our lives above all other things, even above His own life. Jesus has come to earth to sacrifice His life and He has called us His best friends.

Remember, you have a best friend who is willing to sacrifice Himself in order to save you. A best friend who loves and cares about you. He is Jesus Christ!

Key verse:

*John 15:15
But now I call
you friends
because I have
made known to
you everything
I heard from My
Father.*

Prayer

*Jesus, You are
my best friend
in my life. I am
so blessed and I
thank You for this
privilege. I love
You. Amen.*



1 SAMUEL 24:4-22

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

David moved from one place to another in order to avoid Saul because Saul sought to harm him. Gradually, people began to follow David. One day, someone informed Saul where David was hiding. Saul and 3000 soldiers went to find David. David and his men were in a cave. Without knowing that David was inside, Saul went near the cave to attend to his needs. Actually, at that moment David had the chance to hurt Saul. But he refused to do so. He only cut off a corner of Saul's robe. David didn't hurt Saul because he knew Saul was a king anointed by God. David was showing mercy to Saul.

Showing mercy means choosing to show someone our kindness even though that person does not deserve it, and even though we have the power to punish him. In other words, we treat someone nicely even though he has ill-treated us and even though we have the opportunity to get even with him. It is not easy, but if you ask the Holy Spirit to help you, He will enable you to do it.

You and I should strive to be merciful to others because God is merciful to us.

Key verse:

*Luke 6:36
Show mercy
just as your
Father shows
mercy.*

Prayer

*Heavenly Father,
as You are merciful
to me, may I be
merciful to others
too. I know that I
can do it by the
power of the Holy
Spirit. Amen.*

