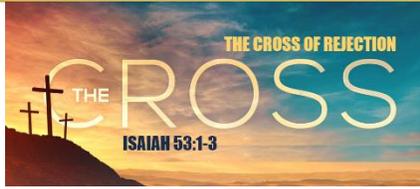


**CODE WORD:
CALLING**



Section 1: Why

- Why:
- Scripture
- **||CW||**

Section 2: Answer

1. A Picture of the Suffering Servant
 - A. Come in love and humility
 - B. Was not impressive by worldly standards
 - C. He would be rejected
2. The Servant is like a ROSE in the DESERT. (2a)
 - A. Plant Life
 1. Hardy plant
 - a. at home, at peace in its environment
 - b. like a sinner at peace in the world
 2. Half-Hardy plant
 - a. out of natural habitat, but adapts
 - b. like a follower compromising with the world
 3. Tender plant
 - a. exotic plant, struggles in new habitat; dies
 - b. like Jesus in this world
 1. from another environment
 2. refused to adapt
 3. killed in the new environment
 - B. Romans, Jews and all of us crucified Him
 3. Jesus, the Servant, was just a REGULAR guy. (2b)
 - A. His physical appearance was not extraordinary.
 - B. His personality was not imposing or aggressive.
 - C. However, we look for these in our heroes.
 1. Want heroes with great appearance & action
 2. ILLUS: Marvel, musicians, athletes, military
 3. This desire was the same in ancient times
 4. Jesus did not fit their idea of a hero.
 4. The Servant, Jesus, is REJECTED by men. (3)

||CW||

- A. Rejected in His time
 1. Luke 23: 13-23
 2. Rejected though they knew He was right
 3. Rejected Him angrily
 4. Rejected Him repeatedly
- B. He is still rejected today.
 1. Rejected despite the Truth
 2. Rejected angrily
 3. Rejected repeatedly

Section 3: Imagine

Next Steps

5. How many times will you reject Jesus? **||CW||**
 - A. Seekers, has He been calling You to follow?
 - B. Has He been calling you to greater fellowship?
 - C. to greater service?
 - D. to repentance?
 - E. to be a rose in the desert?
 - F. Are you rejecting His call?
6. Two great attributes of God
 - A. Justice
 - B. Grace
 - C. Which will you do?
 1. Claim His gift of love?
 2. Fall into His judgment?

None of us are strangers to rejection. When we are younger, it could be not making the basketball team, or a boyfriend or girlfriend breaks up with us. As adults we also experience rejection, but it might take the form of not qualifying for a loan, getting laid off or perhaps as serious as a divorce. Rejection hurts.

Perhaps rejection hurts the most when it comes from people and institutions that should accept us. When our troops came home from the Vietnam conflict, they were in some cases treated really badly when they came home. Agree or not with the US being there, the troops themselves had nothing to do with the decision. They should have been welcomed home with open arms by all.

It is particularly painful when a spouse or a child does not return love. When those sorts of relationships get fractured, we really ache over it. When we are rejected where we should feel most safe, it turns our entire life upside down.

Jesus was rejected. The Creator was rejected by the creation. John tells us in his Gospel that He came to His own, but His own did not receive Him. Jesus, the Suffering Servant prophesied about by Isaiah around 600 years before His birth, willingly suffered rejection for His own glory and for our good. The great beauty of this is that Jesus intimately understands our experiences. He understands better than any of us what it means to be rejected by others, especially those who were supposed to love Him. He understand not only because He is God, but also because He willingly humbled Himself to experience rejection like this firsthand.

Jesus has a call for us today. We dare not reject Him.