

Healing the Root of Rejection

“Fear not, for you will not be put to shame; Neither feel humiliated, for you will not be disgraced; But you will forget the shame of your youth, And the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. For your husband is your Maker, Whose name is the Lord of hosts; And you Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, Who is called the God of all the earth. For the Lord has called you, Like a wife of forsaken and grieved in spirit, Even like a wife of one’s youth when she is rejected.” Isaiah 54:4-6

In this passage, the Lord describes the emotions experienced when we are abandoned, rejected and betrayed by those we most long to trust. His words slam into bruised hearts with amazing accuracy as He names these emotions; fear, humiliation, shame, reproach, disgrace, grief, being forsaken and rejected. The Lord understands these emotions because He has entered into the pain of rejection with us. In chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah, the Lord presents this portrait of Jesus: “He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief. And like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised and we did not esteem Him.” (vs. 3)

The Lord’s tenderness to identify with a wife forsaken is precious. When we are rejected by a parent or spouse, the consequences are significant. Rejection by those God has called to be a protector and a provider produces a root of rejection. The root of rejection often remains buried underground for many years, but eventually it will be exposed by the fruit that it produces. Every root will eventually bear fruit. Some of the fruits that come from the root of rejection are fear, insecurity, jealousy, comparison, control, manipulation and people pleasing. Often the root of rejection is accompanied by the root of bitterness, described in Hebrews 12:15. Scripture tells us that many will be defiled by the fruit that comes from these evil roots.

Fortunately, the Lord does not leave us to a life marred by the roots of sin. In Isaiah 41:9, He tells us, “You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.” The Lord gives us the same comfort offered to Jesus when He was rejected by men. He comforts us with the knowledge that God has chosen us. I Peter 2:3-4 says, “And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ.” Like Jesus, believers are often rejected by men, but choice and precious to God. Even those most dear to us can forsake us. David writes in Psalm 27:10, “For my father and my mother have forsaken me, But the Lord will take me up.”

Jesus made provision for our roots of sin on the cross. If we are willing to bring them to the cross, He will consume them with His consuming fire, and blow the ashes as far as the east is from the west. As we allow Him to fill the empty places inside of us with His love, we will begin to see new fruit displayed in our lives. Instead of the rotten fruit that came from our roots of rejection and bitterness, we will begin to see the Fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5: 22-23. When we come broken to the cross, we begin to discover the truth of the old hymn, “Earth has no sorrow, that Heaven cannot heal.” “He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, beyond all we can ask or think!”