

Jesus on the Issues



Day 1 — READ Mark 6:1-6a

THINK of a time when you've been rejected and **JOURNAL** your experience.

- What happened?
- How did it make you feel?
- How did you react initially?
- Did you begin to guard yourself after that? By accomplishment? By rejecting others? By hiding?
- Did you forgive?

Day 2 — READ Mark 6:1-3

Have you ever been conscious of being hurt *the most* by the rejection of your family vs the rejection of others? Would you say that's a true statement?

Although it's easy to focus on rejection, let's try the opposite. **REFLECT** on some ways that your parents/guardians may have celebrated you, accepted you, been proud of you, or made you feel safe. For some people those memories are few and far between, so **THINK** of others who may have played that role in your life. How do you see God's love for you through those people?

If you're a parent, **FIND** some ways to honor and accept your children, to make them feel safe. Maybe it means focusing on strengths instead of weaknesses. Maybe it means more listening and less speaking. How can you enjoy your children this week?

Day 3 — READ Mark 6:4-6a

Do you have safe people in your life? Do you have community?

- ⇒ If so, **CELEBRATE** those people in your life. **THANK** God for those who love you especially when you're vulnerable.
- ⇒ If you feel alone, **CONSIDER** joining a small group at Jacob's Well. Opening up to people after many years of rejection can be one of the hardest things you'll do, but you'll likely find it one of the most rewarding. In a small group you can **ADMIT** your hurt feelings, **REFUSE** resentment, and **BRING** healing where you can.

Day 4 — READ Mark 1:9-12

God's voice and His love and acceptance laid the foundation at the beginning of Jesus' journey as a teacher. Jesus first received His identity, then He received His assignment. Jesus hadn't done anything yet to deserve love and acceptance, but sometimes we feel we need to DO something before God will love us. In God's Kingdom, we just need to BE who we are in this moment.

Do you need to hear God's voice? Do you need His love and acceptance? **PRAY** for God to make His home in your heart today. **ALLOW** Him to come in and make Himself at home. Don't just give Him the guest bedroom in your heart where people come and go, give Him the master bedroom where the owner lives. Have a meal together. Relax together. Have a conversation with Him about your loneliness, your struggles, your pain, your rejection, your fears, your failures. **THANK** Him for the faithfulness you've seen from Him. **ASK** Him to show you other ways that He's been loving and faithful to you. **SPEND** some time with Him this week. **CREATE** a new home with God where there is no rejection.

Day 5 — READ Mark 1:35

LISTEN. We are constantly hearing, but are we consciously listening? The Bible is full of stories of God's voice. He's an infinite God, so let's remember that He speaks in infinite ways.

To start, **PLAN** time and be intentional.

- **CONTEMPLATE** a verse
- **LISTEN** to a song
- **CONSIDER** a daily devotional reading
(these devotionals or a book or online)
- **SET** some prayer time aside to talk with God
- **IMAGINE** Jesus as your side
- **SPEND** time in God's creation

GO DEEPER

USE scripture to research ways in which God speaks. Be amazed!