

**REJECTED BY MEN. . .**  
**Good Friday Noonday Sermon – April 10, 2009**  
By Pastor Vern Oestmann

Rejection! Rejection is not a good experience. Have you ever been rejected? Maybe you were not selected to be on a team. Maybe you were not hired for a job. Maybe you were not accepted into a college. Maybe a girlfriend or a boyfriend rejected you. Rejection comes to us from a variety of avenues.

I can remember several rejections I received over the years. None of them were pleasant to hear or receive. However, I never experienced a rejection like Jesus experienced.

Listen to the words from Isaiah:

*He was despised and rejected by men,  
a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.  
Like one from whom men hide their faces  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

Isaiah is talking about what Jesus experienced. Jesus was despised and rejected by men.

Jesus was despised - *regarded with contempt or scorn*  
- *disliked intensely; loathed*  
- *regarded as unworthy of one's interest or concern*

Jesus was rejected - *refuse to accept, submit to, believe in*  
- *refuse to recognize or give affection to*  
- *discard as defective or useless*

Jesus indeed was a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering – suffering the agony of being despised and rejected as many people are treated by others in this world.

Did you hear what Isaiah also said? He said, “We esteemed him not.” Ouch! We also are guilty of despising and rejecting Jesus because of our sin. Our sinful ways despise and reject Jesus. Indeed, we do not esteem Him when we sin in thought, word, and deed.

Yet, Jesus bore all our sin, and the sin of the world, on the cross. Isaiah further writes,  
*Surely he took*  
*up our infirmities*

*and carried our sorrows,  
yet we considered him stricken by God,  
smitten by him, and afflicted.*

*But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was upon him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.*

*We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.*

Today we focus on the suffering, agony, and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus. This is a day we remember our need for a Savior. This is a day we remember why Jesus came into this world – to save us from our sin and the punishment of that sin. Today is a day we remember God’s unconditional love and His amazing grace for such a wretch like me. I, like all of you and like all people, was lost and blind, but now, by God’s grace, am found and see.

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieve. How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures;

He will my Shield and Portion be, as long as life endures.

Yes, Jesus was rejected by men, including me and you. Jesus bore our sin and the transgressions of all, but with his stripes we are healed. So, even though this is a day of sorrow as we remember our Lord’s suffering and death; this also is a day of gladness, remembering that we are loved by God so much that He sent His only Son so that all who would believe in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Rejected! Yes! Put to death! Yes! Died! Yes! For you! Yes! For me! Yes! For all! Yes! Jesus was rejected, put to death and died for you, for me, and for all because He loved us unconditionally. What wondrous love is this! Amen.