



Faith & Rejection

When you have been away from home for a while, say to university, and then return, then you can find that things are a little different. Sure, your family welcome you back but when you find that your bedroom has been handed over to one of your younger siblings or rented out to a lodger, then it can take some readjustment.

This week sees us reflect on the Scripture passage where Jesus returns home to Nazareth ... to the people that knew Him when He was young. He has been away and now He's back. However, they refuse to accept that He has changed and still see Him as the 'carpenter's boy'. When He tries to convince them that He is no longer the boy they knew, they are having none of it.

When people refuse to acknowledge the positive change in ourselves, it is difficult. There is a feeling of being rejected. So, the message this week is to accept people for who they are.

[Mr Doust]

Prayer:

Father, In spite of the rejection I have experienced, I declare that everything You say about me in Your Word is true: I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. I am chosen by You, my Father. I am holy and without blame. I am Your child according to the good pleasure of Your will. I am accepted in the Beloved. Amen.



Scripture:

He began to speak to them. He said, “While you heard these words just now, they were coming true!”

All the people praised Jesus. They were amazed at the beautiful words he spoke. They asked, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

Jesus said to them, “I know that you will tell me the old saying: ‘Doctor, heal yourself.’ You want to say, ‘We heard about the things you did in Capernaum. Do those things here in your own town!’” Then Jesus said, “I tell you the truth. A prophet is not accepted in his own town. What I say is true. During the time of Elijah it did not rain in Israel for three and a half years. There was no food anywhere in the whole country. And there were many widows in Israel during that time. But Elijah was sent to none of those widows. He was sent only to a widow in Zarephath, a town in Sidon. And there were many with a harmful skin disease living in Israel during the time of the prophet Elisha. But none of them were healed except Naaman, who was from the country of Syria.”

When all the people in the synagogue heard these things, they became very angry. They got up and forced Jesus out of town. The town was built on a hill. They took Jesus to the edge of the hill and wanted to throw him off. But Jesus walked through the crowd and went on his way.