

# **STRUGGLING FOR ACCEPTANCE**

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## **REJECTION**

It is not good for man to be alone... (Genesis 2:18)  
Man needs acceptance, love and significance  
Rejection weakens the will until it is broken

## Rejection in the Womb

- Unplanned Pregnancy
- Accident
- Rape
- Failed Abortion



For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Ephesians 1:3

Your eyes saw my unformed body.

All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Psalms 139:16

Your hands made me and fashioned me.

Job 10:8

## Rejection At Birth

- Wrong Sex
- Wrong Time
- Wrong Circumstances
- Maternal Problems



Yet you brought me

out of the womb;

you made me trust in you

even at my mother's breast.

Psalms 22:9

## Rejection in Childhood

- Lack of Bonding
- Sexual or Physical Abuse
- Separation
- Illness



But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. "Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come! Matthew 18:6,7

## Other Sources of Rejection

- Hereditary Rejection
- Factors at home
- Problems by teachers, students
- Own attitude
- Multiple causes (divorce, failed relationships, failure in school, etc)



We receive and respond to rejection in many different ways. Rejection from loved ones, competition within the family, rejection from leaders, authority figures, teachers, pastors, can all wound us.

Our own attitudes contribute as well making us defensive and reactionary

## WAYS REJECTION AFFECTS US

- Aggressive Reactions
- Self-rejection Symptoms
- Measures to counter fear of Rejection

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## AGGRESSIVE REACTIONS

- Refusing Comfort
- Rejecting Others
- Harshness
- Scepticism
- Unbelief
- Stubbornness



## SELF-REJECTION SYMPTOMS

- Inferiority
- Insecurity
- Sadness
- Pessimism
- Self-torture



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## PREEMPTING REJECTION

- Performance Centered
- Competitive
- Selfishness & Pride



## Jacob

When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob.

Genesis 25:24-26

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## Jacob

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skilful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Genesis 25:27,28

The boys grew up, and Esau became a skilful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Jacob : Name is "He Grasps the Heel" or figuratively "He Deceives"  
Father loved the older Son  
Honour and prestige goes to Esau  
Not like Esau; Sibling Rivalry

Rejection from Birth : Not the firstborn, Given a name of Deception,  
Father did not love him as much as Esau :  
Favouritism in the family  
Jacob began to exhibit all the symptoms of rejection within the family...

# Jacob

- **Aggressive Reactions :**  
**Stole Blessing, Deceived Father**
- **Self Rejection :**  
**Pretended to be Esau, Took Birthright**
- **Measures to Counter Rejection:**  
**Competitive, Self Preservation**

**Aggressive Reactions :**  
**Stole Blessing, Deceived Father**

**Self Rejection :**  
**Pretended to be Esau, Took Birthright**

**Measures to Counter Rejection:**  
**Competitive, Self Preservation**

At the end of his deception, he's forced to leave his family. In the ultimate sign of rejection, he's cut off from his family. And even worse, his brother wants to kill him.

When Rebekah was told what her older son Esau had said, she sent for her younger son Jacob and said to him, "Your brother Esau is consoling himself with the thought of killing you. Now then, my son, do what I say: Flee at once to my brother Laban in Haran.

"I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Genesis 28:13-15

**Rejection from Birth :** Not the firstborn, Given a name of Deception,  
**Father did not love him as much as Esau :**  
**Favouritism in the family**  
**Jacob began to exhibit all the symptoms of rejection within the family...**

**Jacob didn't understand God's love  
and acceptance of Him.**

Rejection from Birth : Not the firstborn, Given a name of Deception,  
Father did not love him as much as Esau :  
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Jacob began to exhibit all the symptoms of rejection within the family...

"If God will be with me and will watch over me on this journey I am taking and will give me food to eat and clothes to wear so that I return safely to my father's house, then the LORD will be my God and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God's house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth."

Genesis 28:20-22

Rejection from Birth : Not the firstborn, Given a name of Deception,  
Father did not love him as much as Esau :  
Favouritism in the family  
Jacob began to exhibit all the symptoms of rejection within the family...

**Jacob's fear of rejection made him feel like he needs to earn God's favour.**

**God's promise to him was vast, but Jacob's understanding was narrow.**

Jacob's fear of rejection made him feel like he needs to earn God's favour.

God's promise to him was vast, but Jacob's understanding was narrow.

Jacob's rejection going across his family, his relationships.

## **Going Back Home...**

Going to meet his brother

Sends convoy of gift after gift

Still struggling to be accepted, forgiven..

He's going back home, and he's worried. There's a great deal of uncertainty and fear. So he sends gifts over

13 So he stayed there that night, and from what he had with him he took a present for his brother Esau, 14 two hundred female goats and twenty male goats, two hundred ewes and twenty rams, 15 thirty milking camels and their calves, forty cows and ten bulls, twenty female donkeys and ten male donkeys. 16 These he handed over to his servants, every drove by itself, and said to his servants, "Pass on ahead of me and put a space between drove and drove." 17 He instructed the first, "When Esau my brother meets you and asks you, 'To whom do you belong? Where are you going? And whose are these ahead of you?'

"I may appease him with the present that goes ahead of me, and afterwards I shall see his face. Perhaps he will accept me."

Jacob struggled all night and at the end God simply touches his hip and the wrestling match is over... And Jacob at the end of it asks for a blessing... asks for something new for his life...

**Wrestles with God**

Jacob struggled all night and at the end God simply touches his hip and the wrestling match is over... And Jacob at the end of it asks for a blessing... asks for something new for his life...

## Jacob's whole life has been a struggle...

Fighting God for something

Struggling for acceptance

Struggling for peace

Jacob struggled all night and at the end God simply touches his hip and the wrestling match is over... And Jacob at the end of it asks for a blessing... asks for something new for his life...

### God's blessing stops the fight

- No more fighting
- No need to earn respect
- No need to earn love
- He is given a new purpose, new hope, new direction, new name...

Jacob struggled all night and at the end God simply touches his hip and the wrestling match is over... And Jacob at the end of it asks for a blessing... asks for something new for his life...

Israel means — He strives with God

18 And Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram, and he camped before the city. 19 And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for a hundred pieces of money[e] the piece of land on which he had pitched his tent. 20 There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.[f]

**Are you struggling for  
Acceptance like Jacob?**

But today God wants to heal us. He wants to remove the emotional wounds that are in our hearts that are holding us back from growing in Him. Sometimes these are the things that cause us to have to take time out to recover for a while. Sometimes these are the things that caused us to spend considerable amount of time coping with them that they affect our service for God. But above all, these are things that affect our relationship with God, and that's why we cannot grow closer to God, and that breaks His heart...and He wants to bring us through inner healing.

**Have you dealt with a lot of  
rejection in your life?  
Do you feel left out,  
neglected, abandoned?**

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**Do you feel life is unfair, and  
that God has let you down?**

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## **Jesus**

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:10

Jacob struggled all night and at the end God simply touches his hip and the wrestling match is over... And Jacob at the end of it asks for a blessing... asks for something new for his life...

**There's freedom because  
Jesus receives you. He  
accepts you, restores you,  
and gives you a new name.**

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**COMMUNION**

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