

PREACHING CURRICULUM

SIMPLY FOLLOWING JESUS – MARK 6:1-13

REJECTION AND THEN SUCCESS!

Jesus did not always receive a warm welcome. Sometimes people rejected Him and His ministry. In this week's passage, we are reminded that as we step out and do God's will, we are not guaranteed to be successful in all cases. We must learn to depend on God for the outcome. We must also develop wisdom about when to continue serving in an area of ministry and when to move on.

1 REVIEW THE SERMON

LEADER NOTES: Encourage your members to pull out their notes and review the main points of the sermon. (9-12 mins)

Read Mark 6:1-6. What sort of reception did Jesus receive in Nazareth? _____

Why did people from Jesus' hometown react to Him as they did? _____

Read Mark 6:7-13. Why did Jesus send out His disciples on a preaching mission without any provisions? Is this something we should imitate today? _____

What did the act of shaking the dust from one's feet signify? _____

2 ASSESS YOUR LIFE

LEADER NOTES: Evaluate the condition of your lives in relation to the truth from God's Word. Encourage heart examination. (12-15 mins)

Do you expect that everything should go well for you if you are doing God's will? Why or why not? _____

Have you ever encountered problems, difficulties or rejection in ministry and concluded that you are not "in God's will"? If so, why did you come to that conclusion? _____

What is your attitude when you encounter difficulties? Are you more inclined to trust God's provision, or do you find yourself trying to manage your way out of the situation without asking for God's help? _____

Is it ever appropriate to leave a ministry endeavour that doesn't seem to be working out? If so, how do you know when you have reached that point? When is it better to stay and "stick it out" in a difficult ministry? _____

3 APPLY THE TRUTH

LEADER NOTES: Create a list of ways to close the gap between your lives and the truth of the Bible. Be practical and intentional. (12-15 mins)

Knowing that Jesus experienced rejection in ministry, how does this change your expectations regarding success in ministry? _____

Does fear of rejection keep you from getting involved in the lives of other people? If so, how can Jesus' example encourage you to overcome this fear? _____

Are you involved in a ministry of some kind that is not bearing any fruit? If so, do you think it might be time to pull the plug on it and use your gifts somewhere else? _____

4 COMMIT THIS WEEK

LEADER NOTES: Call your small group members to make a commitment and get the group working together to follow-up with each other. (9-12)

Do you know someone who is serving in a challenging area of ministry? How can you encourage them this week?

Commit to encourage one another to be more dependent on God and His provision this week!