

Never Rejected

Introduction:

David might have felt rejected by his father at times. He wasn't important enough to call in from the field when Samuel came. He didn't let that influence him toward God. He knew that when people let you down or reject you, God is faithful to lift you up.

Psalm 27:9-10 *"Do not hide Your face from me; Do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my help; Do not leave me or forsake me, O God of my salvation. 10 When my father and my mother forsake me, Then the LORD will take care of me. "*

God took the initiative and planned for us.

A. He loved us while we were far away. John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "*

He Merely Showed His Hands

William Dixon lived in Brackenthwaite, England. He was a widower who had also lost his only son. One day he saw that the house of one of his neighbors was on fire. Although the aged owner was rescued, her orphaned grandson was trapped in the blaze. Dixon climbed an iron pipe on the side of the house and lowered the boy to safety. His hands that had held onto the pipe were badly burned. Shortly after the fire, the grandmother died. The townspeople wondered who would care for the boy. Two volunteers appeared before the town council. One was a father who had lost his son and would like to adopt the orphan as his own. William Dixon was to speak next, but instead of saying anything he merely held up his **scarred** hands. When the vote was taken, the boy was given to him

---Neil Strait

B. God chose us, we didn't choose him. John 15:1-16 *"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He J: takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 you are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. 9 "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. 10 If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. 11 "These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. 12 This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down one's life for his friends. 14 you are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16 you did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.*

1. God made us part of the vine.
2. God is more concerned about us bearing fruit than Him doing it indiscriminately.
3. The fact that God prunes us demonstrates His great love and acceptance.
4. God desires us to stay close to Him. That shows love.
5. God chose us to have joy.

6. Jesus laid down His life for us.
7. The Father wants to answer our prayers.

C. God chose us before creation. Ephesians 1:3-6 *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having*

predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."

- 1 God took the initiative to choose and to bless us.
- 2 We are accepted in Christ Jesus.
- 3 God has removed and forgiven all sin. and redeemed us. (Bought us from the slave market.)

God Moves In Mysterious Ways

At age 32, William Cowper passed through a great crisis in his life. He tried to end his life by taking laudanum. Then he hired a horse-drawn cabbie, ordering the driver to take him to the Thames River, intending to throw himself from the bridge. It was one of London's foggiest nights. They drove for an hour without reaching the chosen spot. Disgusted, he decided to get out and walk there. He found to his surprise they had actually gone in a circle and he was back at his own doorstep!

The next morning he fell upon a knife, but the blade broke and his life was spared. He then tried to hang himself, and was cut down unconscious but still alive. Then one morning, in a moment of strange cheerfulness, he took up his Bible and read a verse in the Letter to the Romans. In a moment he received strength to believe, and rejoiced in the forgiving power of God. Sometime later, Cowper summed up his faith in God's loving dealing with him in a great hymn which became a favorite among Christians.

God Moves In A Mysterious Way

God moves in a mysterious way
His wonders to perform;
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.

Deep in unfathomable mines Of never
failing skill
He treasures up His bright designs
And works His sovereign will.

Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take;
The clouds ye so much dread Are big
with mercy and shall break
In blessings on your head.

Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning providence
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour;

The bud may have a bitter taste,
But sweet will be the flower.

Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain;
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain

n. We were no surprise to God. Psalm 139:1-16 "O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ²You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. ³You comprehend my path and my lying down. And are acquainted with all my wtrys. ⁴For there is not a word on my tongue. But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether. ⁵You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. ⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it. ⁷Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸**If** ascend into heaven, You are there; **If** make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. ⁹**If**

I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me, " Even the night shall be light about me; ¹²Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day; The darkness and the light are both alike to You. ¹³For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

- A. God knows all about us. (and still loves us!)
- B. God's hand has been on us our entire life.
- C. God's got a hook in your jaw. You can't get away from Him.
- D. Who we are is what God made us.

III God cannot forget us. Isaiah 49:15-16 "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you. ¹⁶See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. "