

## SPECIAL LESSON

# Bible Study: Dealing with Rejection A Reflection on the Sunday of the Unjust Judge

## Bible Study Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Reflecting on:** The Parable of the Unjust Judge

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 18:1-8

### Passages and Verses Used in this Bible Study

**Isaiah 53:3:** *“He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.”*

**Romans 8:31:** *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”*

**2 Corinthians 12:9-10:** *“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

**Psalms 34:17-18** reinforces this truth: *“The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”*

**1 Peter 2:4-5:** *“As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.”*

### Memory Verse:

**“If God is for us, who can be against us?”**

**- Romans 8:31**

## Bible Study Lesson

### Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, ee paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

## A Reflection on the Sunday of the Unjust Judge

Rejection is one of the most difficult experiences in life. Whether it comes from friends, family, employers, or even within the Church, it often leaves us feeling unwanted, unworthy, and disheartened. It can cause us to doubt our purpose and even question God’s presence. At times such as these, we often find it difficult to turn to Scripture and find comfort in God’s word. Yet, throughout Scripture, we see that rejection is not the end of the story—it is often a stepping stone to something greater. God does not abandon those who are rejected by the world. Instead, He calls us to trust in Him, persist in faith, and recognize that our true worth comes not from human approval but from His love and calling.

Before we dive deep into how the Scriptures help us deal with rejection, let us think of our first responses towards rejection.

**Q:** *How have you personally experienced rejection? How did it affect your faith?*

**Q:** *Have you ever faced rejection that, in hindsight, turned out to be a blessing? What happened?*

**Q:** *How can the Church support those who feel rejected, whether by society, family, or even within the Church itself?*

Persistence is one of the best ways to combat rejection. Whether it is by working harder, seeking help, applying once more, or continuously praying, persistence is something that God encourages us to employ. One of the best examples of persistence in the face of rejection is found in the Gospel reading for the Sunday of the Unjust Judge (Luke 18:1-8). Jesus tells a parable about a widow who repeatedly pleads with an unjust judge to grant her justice. At first, the judge refuses. But because of her relentless persistence, he eventually grants her request—not out of righteousness, but simply because he grows weary of her asking.

### Read Luke 18:1-8

**Q:** *What do you think the widow in Luke 18:1-8 teaches us about persistence in the face of rejection?*

Jesus explains if even an unjust judge eventually grants justice, how much more will our just and loving God respond to those who seek Him in faith? Through this parable, Jesus teaches us the importance of persistence in prayer, especially when we face rejection, discouragement, or unanswered requests.

But what is rejection and how do we understand it? The ultimate example of rejection in the Bible is Jesus Himself. **Isaiah 53:3** prophesies about Christ being rejected centuries before His birth saying, “*He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces, he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.*”

**Q:** *How does Jesus' rejection (Isaiah 53:3) encourage us when we feel unwanted or dismissed?*

Jesus experienced rejection throughout His earthly ministry. The religious leaders dismissed Him, His fellow villagers of Nazareth ridiculed Him, His own people turned against Him, and even His closest disciples abandoned Him in His darkest hour. On the cross, He endured the ultimate rejection—bearing the sins of the world and feeling forsaken by many of His followers. Yet, His rejection led to salvation for all who believe in Him.

Although it may seem difficult for us, but when we face rejection, we can take comfort in knowing that Jesus understands our pain. He has walked this road before us, and He stands with us in our suffering. Our rejection does not define us—God's love does. **Romans 8:31** reminds us: *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"*

**Q:** *What does Romans 8:31 mean in dealing with rejection? How can we apply it to our lives?*

If Jesus, the Son of God, was rejected yet remained faithful, we too can endure rejection with faith and trust in God's greater plan, and continue to pray for wisdom and endurance.

It is a fact that rejection is often painful, but it is not always negative. Many times, rejection is God's way of redirecting us toward something better. We see an example of this in the story of Joseph from the Old Testament. Joseph's brothers rejected him, selling him into slavery. He was falsely accused and thrown into prison. He was then forgotten in prison for years. Yet, through every rejection, God was preparing him for a greater purpose—to become a ruler in Egypt and save his family and many others during a famine.

Similarly, St. Paul faced rejection and suffering throughout his ministry. In **2 Corinthians 12:9-10**, he shares God's response to his struggles: *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me."*

**Q:** *Paul speaks of God's power being perfected in weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). How does this change the way we view rejection?*

Sometimes, God allows rejection to refine us, to teach us reliance on Him rather than human approval. Rather than seeing rejection as a failure, we should view it as an opportunity to trust that God is leading us toward something greater.

The widow in Luke 18 provides a powerful example of faith that refuses to give up. Even when the judge ignored her, she continued to plead her case. Eventually, he granted her justice—not out of goodness, but because she persisted. Jesus uses this parable to encourage us not to lose heart in prayer.

**Q:** *How often do we pray for something and give up when we don't see immediate results?*

**Q:** *How can we practice persistence in prayer without becoming discouraged?*

When we face rejection, it's easy to assume that God is silent or uninterested. But Jesus assures us that God hears us, even when we do not see immediate answers. **Psalms 34:17-18** reinforces this truth: *"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

If an unjust judge can respond to persistence, how much more will our loving Heavenly Father hear our pleas? The lesson here is faithful persistence—not just in prayer, but in all aspects of our spiritual lives.

**Q:** *If you are currently experiencing rejection, how can you use the parable of the persistent widow as encouragement in your life today?*

## Summary

In a world that often judges people based on status, appearance, and achievements, rejection can feel like a personal failure. But Scripture reminds us that our worth is found in God, not in the opinions of others. We only have to come to Him and put our trust in Him. This is exactly what St. Peter tells us in **1 Peter 2:4-5**: “As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house.”

Just as Christ was rejected by people but chosen by God, we too are chosen for a greater purpose. When we experience rejection, we must remind ourselves that human approval is temporary, but God’s calling to us is eternal.

Rejection is painful, but it is not the final word. God calls us to persist in faith, trust in His plan, and find our identity in Him rather than from others or even society itself. The Sunday of the Unjust Judge reminds us that God hears our prayers, sees our struggles, and will bring justice in His perfect time. Like the persistent widow, let us continue seeking Him, knowing that He will never reject those who come to Him in faith.

## Helpful Steps for Dealing with Rejection

**Turn to God in Prayer** – Like the persistent widow, keep bringing your needs before God. He hears you, even when you don’t see immediate results.

**Find Comfort in Scripture** – Meditate on passages like Psalm 34:17-18, Romans 8:31, and 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. These remind us of God’s presence in our struggles.

**Remember Christ’s Example** – Jesus endured rejection, but He remained faithful to the will of the Father. Follow His example and trust in God’s greater plan.

**Seek God’s Purpose in Rejection** – Instead of seeing rejection as failure, ask how God might be using it to guide you to something better.

**Stay Connected to the Church** – Surround yourself with faithful believers who can encourage and uplift you in difficult times.

**Forgive and Move Forward** – Holding onto bitterness only deepens the wound of rejection. Forgiveness allows us to heal and remain open to God’s work in our lives.

### Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamgyhees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.