



**When rejection occurs don't give up. Jesus was rejected at Nazareth.
We are in need of God's Mercy in our imperfection**

Jesus had spent the best part of thirty years in Nazareth. During that time he was known by all as the carpenter, the son of Mary. However, since leaving Nazareth, Jesus' life had taken a new direction. He had thrown himself into the work that God had given him to do. He had left Nazareth as a carpenter; he returned as a teacher and a healer. There was in fact much more to Jesus than his own townspeople had ever suspected while he was living among them. The gospel reading suggests that they could not accept this 'more'; they rejected him. They wanted him to be the person they had always known; they would not allow him to move on from that. The image they had of him, which they held on to with great tenacity, became a block to their learning more about him. There was more to Jesus than the people of Nazareth were aware of.

Familiarity leads to Ignorance, Contemptuous and Prejudice

The people failed to recognize the worth, value and more of Jesus due to "too much familiarity". However, this familiarity was only "external and peripheral". Such kind of a familiarity had, in fact, caused them to be ignorant, contemptuous and prejudiced. They were ignorant of the fact that amidst them was the Promised Messiah who was to save the world! They were Contemptuous of the fact that "one of them" could actually possess so much of wisdom and power. They were Prejudiced of the fact that "this ordinary Son of a carpenter" could ever be the Son of God. Yes, how often do we reject the precious and important people and aspects of life due to our ignorance, due to our contempt of things and due to our prejudiced mindsets!

Indeed, there is always more to every human being than we are aware of. That is true even of those we would claim to know well. We can easily

assume that we know someone, when, in reality, we only know one side to them. We are each made in God's image. There is a profound mystery to each one of us. We can never fully probe the mystery of another person's life. God continues to come to us today in and through the ordinary, in and through those who are most familiar to us. The primary way the Lord comes to us is in and through the everyday. The ordinary and familiar often reveals to us the mystery of God's presence.

Acknowledge imperfection and inviting God's mercy to fix

David faced a great deal of distress while exercising his power over the people of Israel as king (2 Sam 24:9-17). However, recognizing his weaknesses and accepting his frailty in humility, King David would submit himself to the Power and Mercy of God.

Yes, It is more about seeing one's imperfections and inviting God's grace to transform them. Which is the wisdom Paul receives when God suggests to Paul to trust his weakness, "My grace is enough for you, for in weakness power reaches perfection." (2 Cor 12:9)

Dealing with imperfections, and failures are difficult. Many of us may have the same kind of thinking when we think we have to fix whatever problems and challenges are in our life. Perhaps the best spiritual practice we can partake in this day is to first acknowledge the breakdown, insecurity, failure, error, mistake, or mess which we experience in our life. And without having to attempt to fix it, we first allow God's mercy to touch it.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, give your wisdom to acknowledge my imperfection and learn "more" of you through reading the Scripture and participating in the Sacraments. May I lift up my heart in thanksgiving and gratitude for your Guiding Presence with me always and learn to grow deeper in my love for you.

Jesus, I Trust In You