Daily Devotion #194

**Rejected**

**Isaiah 53:3 (NASB)** *“He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”*

I think most parents can identify with the first time they saw their newborn child and how excited they were. I remember when our children were born seeing their little smushed faces and and how precious they looked while they were sleeping wrapped snuggly in the hospital blankets. They were so adorable.

And even though they are adults now, they are still precious to my wife and me. We have watched as they have made their way in the world and are so excited for how they have taken on life and made it something of their own. Certainly we are concerned for them. A parent never stops being concerned that their children are ok and that they have what they need. But more than our concern, we are encouaraged by each of them.

As we watched them grow over the years, we had certain feelings and emotions about each of them. How we have always hoped and prayed that God would use them for His work and that they would be liked by their peers. It is a terrible challenge when one of your children comes home only to tell you how someone mistreated them or embarrassed them or ignored them. That is a very challenging place to be as a parent. You find yourself wanting to take matters in your own hands and deal with the trouble makers who would dare treat your child that way.

As I think about those days, I am reminded of what Joseph and Mary went through when Jesus was born. I can only imagine after Gabriel gave them the good news about their first baby, they must have had times when they thought about how his life would be. Would He be someone everyone would like? Would He have good friends? How would He be treated?

Isaiah gives the answer. And the answer is not what a parent would want for their child. Imagine you were Jospeh and Mary, promised by God to be the parents of the Christ, the Savior of the world, and know that you would have to watch as your Son was despised by the world. That He would grow up in a world where He would be mistreated and eventually nailed to a cross like He was a criminal, when just the opposite was true. He came to love people and was given as a gift for them.

Scripture doesn’t give us any imformation about Joseph after Jesus was the age of twelve. Most likely Joseph had died so he is not mentioned again. We know that Jesus was without sin because He was God in the flesh, but, still as fully human, he felt the same pains and struggles you and I feel. Imagine how it must have been for Mary when Jesus became an adult and would be arrested and tried as a criminal and sentenced to die. It’s hard to imagine all that. I certainly could not imagine watching my child go through that.

But that is what the Son of God came to do. He came to bear the burdens of our pain. He came to show us the difference between holiness and sin. He came to teach us the ways of God the Father and to offer to all who will put their trust in Him, eternal life. Yet the world still rejects Him and His offer - the only One who is truly love. No sin. No ulterior motives. No hidden agenda. Just love. Love that will remove anyone from a life of rejection and pain.

Yes, beloved, He was rejected by the very people He created. The amazing thing is, He knew that before He came. But He still came and He still lived the life of rejection and He still finished His work the Father had given Him to do. Why? What would compel Him to make such as sacrifice? The answer is you! You were worth it. You are His creation. So just like any parent would give themselves for their child, He gave Himself for all who turn to Him for salvation.

Did you know you had such value? When the world rejects you, remember you have a heavenly Father who sacrificed His own Son for you.