

Intro:

Q: How do you think rejection effects Marriage?

I. REJECTION BAGGAGE

A. Background of this woman Michal – a life filled with rejection

1. She was used by her father: *He saw no value in her except as a tool for his own purposes*
 - a. *Offers her as a door prize: Then tries to use her to get David killed*
2. Her father rejects her because she helped her husband: *Gives her away to another man*
3. Now she is forced to compete with 6 other women for David's attention: *I'm not good enough...*

B. We bring our rejection issues into marriage

1. Rejection is an opinion of value: Someone says a person has no value/less value

- a. *All men are pigs b. Never trust a woman c. You have no worth – or not as much worth*
 1. *Michal had this: Men are pigs/can't be trusted/will use you... I have no worth to my husband*

2. 2 Samuel 6:16 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

- b. *For men: Their view of women c. For women: Their view of men - can be formed by rejection*

2. Some have a spirit of fear put into them by watching their parents' dysfunctional marriage

- a. *A natural reaction is to put up walls to protect ourselves*
 1. *Some: I will never get married 2. Some: I will make sure you never hurt me – or make me feel like I did*

3. We view our spouse through the lens of how we view ourselves

- a. *God made you to have value/worth (this is supposed to come from Him)*
 1. *Mark 12:31 The second command is this: 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.'*
- b. *If you don't love yourself (in a healthy way) – if you don't think you have value/worth*
 1. *You can't handle it when someone loves you more than you love yourself: I love you – why???*
- c. *So people with unhealed rejection issues try and sabotage the love relationship*
 1. *The easiest way to do that is to pick a fight*

a. 2 Samuel 6:20 When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, "How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!" "His response... ill be worse!"

1. *Not reasonable conversations: They fight back – and attack our worth; Stupid/no-good/ugly/witch*

d. In a strange way: We try and re-create the rejection we experienced at home

1. *People push or attack their spouse until they are rejected: It matches how they feel! Love freaks us out. Because we do not love ourselves... Recreated the disfunction we have experienced and are used to. Matches the rejection that we feel.*

4. Rejection twists communication

a. You speak from a place of hurt: Hurt people – hurt people

1. 2 Samuel 6:20 When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, "How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!" She isn't expressing "I have a need"... She is speaking hurt.

- b. **You hear from a place of hurt: Rejected people filter/interpret what they hear through their rejection**
 1. *Women hear - You look beautiful: You don't really mean that/you just have to say that. (Problem: man: fine.. I won't say that again).*

2. *Men hear almost any issue... money/trash: So you think I'm stupid??? Communication is twisted.*

c. You fail to communicate because of hurt: Don't know how/afraid to. Won't talk to spouse...

5. Bitterness poisons relationships:

a. Hebrews 12:15 NLT ...Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

1. *A common reaction is to hold on to anger/violations towards those who rejected us*
- b. *But we bring our bitterness into each new relationship: And it corrupts/ruins the relationship*

New marriage: old problems begin to wreck or ruin.

1. *You might not actually be fighting with the one you're fighting with!!!*
 - a. *That's just like my Dad! Like my ex-wife/ex-husband*

II. REJECTION DAMAGE

B. Look at how rejection affects your marriage

1. Rejection affects your viewpoint: See things in a twisted way *You made a fool of yourself acted like some pervert! This is a happy day: ARK coming back. Glory of God.... Does she see the good? No... just pervert...*

a. **Titus 1:15** ...but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. Defiled: Stained.

1. Can't enjoy what's good/what some is doing right – can only see what's wrong.

a. Tell me something good about your spouse? Some people say nothing!! You won't stay married

2. Rejection kills love: Tragedy of Michal is love that died

a. **1 Samuel 18:20** ...Saul's daughter Michal had fallen in love with David

b. But then her rejection issues caused her to attack – tear down her love

1. **Proverbs 14:1** The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.

c. We're not in love anymore: *That doesn't just happen*

1. We attack/re-create the pain from our past 2. Fail to give the love that's needed 3. We strangle love to death
Suspect list is short in a relationship made up of two...

3. Rejection blocks blessing: David was on his way to bless his household – they were to all receive benefits

a. She stops the blessing at the door: *He doesn't force his way in!* You can't be blessed and bitter!

1. **Matthew 18:35** "That's what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart."

a. The blessing He wanted to give – He would not b/c of servant's un-forgiveness

b. Cuts us off from God's love/favour: Key to much unanswered prayer: *Blockage!*

1. **Mark 11:24-25** Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Need a miracle: God help us. But you cannot hold onto rejection and bitterness. You stop the power of God.

4. Rejection affects our fruit: **2 Samuel 6:23** And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

a. Spiritual fruitfulness can be blocked.

b. We hurt our physical fruitfulness: *We can do damage to our children*

III. CHOOSING A DIFFERENT ENDING

A. No happy ending for Michal – she was never healed of bitterness; *She died barren*

1. David is a contrast to Michal: *He was rejected/violated, too!*

a. Despised by his own father: Didn't even see value in him. *Any sons who could be King? No, just David*

b. Falsely accused by his own brother c. King was ungrateful for him risking his life

d. Slandered/plotted against/attacked by Saul e. Separated from his wife – given to another

2. Amazing: People with the same circumstances – totally different outcomes

a. *One is made bitter/twisted/imprisoned – another is made better/it becomes the basis of future blessing*

B. David made different choices than Michal

1. He brought the violations of life to God: *Psalms filled with honest prayers – you see/ I don't know if I can make it!*

a. *Forgiveness: I choose to let it go – leave it with God; God, help me with how I feel about what's happened*

b. **Job 42:10** After Job had prayed for his friends, the LORD made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before.

2. David found his true value in God:

a. **Psalm 8:4-5** But why are people even important to you? Why do you take care of human beings? ⁵You made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor.

b. **Psalm 139:14** I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way. What you have done is wonderful. I know this very well.

3. David sought to be a blessing to others: **v18-20** blessed the people/gave/returned to bless his household

a. Giving out when you are hurting: *That is a crucial discipline*