

## The Obstacle of Rejection

Have you ever faced the obstacle of rejection when trying to fulfill the marching orders of Matthew 28:18-20? If so, how did you respond? Were you discouraged to the point where you never wanted to do evangelism again? Since this obstacle is one of the devil's greatest tools to hinder our efforts to win the lost, we need to know how to combat it effectively. Here are three things to always remember when faced with the obstacle of rejection.

### I. Remember this is not a new obstacle .

- A. This may be surprising when you consider all of the conversion success stories in the Bible. Consider a few examples.
  1. The people of Nineveh (Jonah 3:5-10)
  2. The 3,000 on Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41)
  3. The church grew to 5000 men (Acts 4:4)
  4. The Samaritans (Acts 8:12)
  5. Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:13)
  6. The Ethiopian Treasurer (Acts 8:25-40)
  7. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9)
  8. Cornelius (Acts 10)
  9. The Philippian Jailer (Acts 17:1-4)
  10. The Bereans (Acts 17:11-12)
  11. The Corinthians (Acts 18:8)
  12. The Ephesians (Acts 19:1-5)
- B. Here are some conversion stories that did not turn out so well.
  1. The preaching of Noah (2 Peter 2:5).
  2. The preaching of the prophets .
  3. Peter and John are thrown in jail (Acts 4).
  4. All the apostles are arrested and thrown in jail (Acts 5).
  5. Stephen is murdered (Acts 7).
  6. Paul is stoned in Lystra (Acts 14:23).
  7. Paul is forced from Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-10).
  8. A riot starts in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41).
  9. Felix refuses to obey the gospel (Acts 24:25).
  10. Many disciples left Christ (John 6:66).

### II. Remember who people are really rejecting .

- A. They are not rejecting us personally.
- B. Instead they are rejecting God! See 2 Timothy 3:16; John 16:12-15; 1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:11-12; Matthew 24:35; John 12:48.

### III. Remember our responsibility .

- A. It is not to convert, but to plant the seed! See Mark 16:15-16; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Ephesians 4:15.
- B. God does the converting because the power to save is in the gospel (Romans 1:16).

**Conclusion:** We must continue this mission because people's souls are on the line (John 6:67-68).