

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: ? Sermon is copied from an unknown author.
- B. We have all met someone who appeared to be confident.
- C. Some confidence is a front:
 - 1. Inferior self-image.
 - 2. Attention seekers.
 - 3. To keep from getting hurt.
 - 4. Fear of inadequacy.
- D. Jesus knew who he was and what he was doing.
- E. Jesus never spent time wondering if his life was going in the right direction.

I. JESUS GOT STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.

- A. The call of the disciples (Mk. 1:16-18):
 - 1. He didn't use manipulative devices to get followers.
 - 2. He assuredly called them.
- B. The sending of the disciples to get a colt for riding to Jerusalem (Mk. 11:1-3).
- C. Jesus' instruction on the Passover arrangements (Mk. 14:12-15).
- D. The rich young ruler (Mk. 10:17-22):
 - 1. Jesus went right to the point (10:21).
 - 2. And Jesus did not stop him when the young man left.
- E. Peter's mother-in-law (Mk. 1:29-31):
 - 1. Jesus didn't hesitate.
 - 2. "He... took her hand and lifted her up and the fever left her; and she served them" (1:31).
- F. The Syro-Phoenician woman (Mk. 7:24-30):
 - 1. Jesus merely spoke the words.
 - 2. He never had any doubts as to His ability.

II. JESUS FACED REJECTION WITH CONFIDENCE (Mark 3:20-35).

- A. His friends thought he had lost his mind (3:21). They misunderstood and failed to believe him.
- B. The scribes, unbelieving, accused him of having been possessed by Beelzebub. He confidently answered their charge.
- C. His own family thought he had lost his mind (3:31-32).
 - 1. The three accounts are parallel--they all were unbelieving.
 - 2. Yet, Jesus answers them confidently, realizing that God's will is more important than family.

III. JESUS WAS FORCED TO LEAVE.

- A. The Gerasene Demoniac (Mk. 5:1-20).
 - 1. After the demon Legion was cast out of the man at the tombs, the crowd begged Jesus to leave (5:17).
 - 2. Jesus didn't argue, wasn't upset; He just left.
- B. Jesus back in his own country (Mk. 6:1-6):
 - 1. His former neighbors "took offense at him" (6:3).
 - 2. He just took their rejection as a typical human reaction (6:4).
 - 3. He wasn't threatened by their rejection.

IV. OTHER EXAMPLES.

- A. Someone else was casting out demons in Jesus' name (Mk. 9:38-39). Jesus didn't consider his own popularity threatened.
- B. Jesus' anticipation of death on the way to Jerusalem (Mk. 10:32-34):
 - 1. Jesus accepted God's will and went.
 - 2. However, the disciples were fearful.
- C. Jesus before Pilate:
 - 1. When the time came for betrayal, Jesus went without hesitation (Mk. 14:41-42).
 - 2. Jesus accepted death before Pilate (Mk. 15:2-5).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Jesus is our model, therefore, if we are rejected:
 - a. We should do as the disciples were told (Mk. 6:11).
 - b. We need to endure to the end (Mk. 13:9-13).
- B. Rejection is not easy; but remember, we are not being rejected, Christ is."
- C. We must remember who we are and what our purpose is, as Jesus did; this will get us through the worst of situations. This had special meaning for Mark's readers--Christians in Rome.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.