



## ***4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME*** ***YEAR C – February 3, 2019***

The scripture readings today speak to us about the feelings of rejection and how we are to handle them.

Abraham Lincoln, regarded by some as the greatest president this country has ever had, was defeated and rejected seven times for political office before he became the president of the United States.

Van Gogh, regarded by many as one of the greatest painters in history, earned only 85 dollars from his paintings in his lifetime. A century later, one of his paintings sold for the incredible sum of 82.5 million dollars.

And then there is the stone rejected by the builders who became the cornerstone of the kingdom of God here on earth. His name is Jesus.

He was rejected, not only by the people in his home town, including his family who thought he was insane, but also by the important religious and civil leaders of his time.

The point is clear, if all these people had let rejection govern their lives, it would have kept them from doing the right thing.

Jeremiah and St. Paul also knew how to handle rejection. We hear from each of them in the Scripture Readings today (Jer 1:4-5, 17-19) (I Corinthians 12:31-13:13).

In effect, they tell us that if God is on our side, it doesn't matter who is against us. If you are called to speak on behalf of God as Jeremiah was, don't be afraid of rejection. It will happen on occasion, but it doesn't have to stop you from doing what is right.

Paul reminds us that if we choose to love as Jesus did, we can expect rejection from some people, even close friends and sometimes even family members. But don't let that stop you from doing what is right.

The fear of rejection is a powerful force and we all must deal with it; as preteens, adolescents, young adults or old adults, male or female. All of us will experience rejection at one time or another.

But if God is with you, it doesn't really matter who is against you. But what do you do if your fear includes a fear of rejection by God himself?

Know this, God doesn't reject anyone, even the people we don't like or the people who don't like us. Do you reject anyone?

