

Lent Reflection Resources

Week 4: Rejection



The Sermon at Capernaum by Vasily Alexandrovich Kotarbinsky



The Bible Passage

As Jesus was speaking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. Someone told Jesus, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside, and they want to speak to you."

Jesus asked, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?" Then he pointed to his disciples and said, "Look, these are my mother and brothers. Anyone who does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother!"

~ Matthew 12:46-50



Ways to Enter the Story

You might like to relive the story, as one of the disciples, or an unnamed member of the crowd, or as a member of Jesus' family, and take the opportunity to talk to Jesus, to pray and worship. It might help to read or listen to the passage again. If you find it hard to keep focused while imagining things, you could try writing your reflection down. Or maybe you're artistic, and you want to paint or draw something related to the story.

Here are some questions to ponder as you respond.

I wonder whether you have had times of suffering or rejection – did you feel closer to God at that time or far from him? How did you get through it? If it's a current situation, would you be able to pour out your heart to God, like Mary did in our reflection? God is always there to listen even when we don't feel it and loves it when we turn to him. Could you talk to someone else about it and seek comfort and support, whether from friends or from the pastoral care team?

Or to take another perspective on this dynamic, do you have family or friends that you have had to let go and trust God to take care of, perhaps during this pandemic? Or perhaps as a child or grandchild was growing up?

[Click here to listen to Stephanie Gretzinger's, 'No one ever cared for me like Jesus'.](#)

