July 4, 2021 Sermon – Between You and God

1. Introduction
   1. Change to SLIDE 2 when I say “Today’s the day we realize that Rodney Dangerfield and Jesus Christ actually have something in common”
   2. Change to SLIDE 3 when I say “We can even look at this holiday in which we remember, celebrate, and are so deeply thankful and boil it down to a matter of disrespect”
   3. Change to SLIDE 4 when I say “In order to fully understand how much the people missed the mark in Jesus’ hometown, we have to look at how another king was received in the Bible”
   4. Read 2 Samuel 5:3 “So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them … before the LORD.”
2. Jesus’ Reception
   1. Change to SLIDE 5 when I say “We may have hoped for and expected Jesus to be received in the way King David was”
   2. Change to SLIDE 6 when I say “Mark tells us that Jesus’ time in his hometown began without issue, starting with him teaching in the synagogue”
   3. Change to SLIDE 7 when I say “Unfortunately, Jesus had this to deal with from the home crowd”
   4. Talking about what the people saw and likely inferred from seeing Jesus and what they knew about him
   5. Change to SLIDE 8 when I say “Jesus takes their ungracious response to His work and gives the world a bitter but true bit of wisdom that has permeated the world beyond Christianity”
3. Dealing with Rejection
   1. Change to SLIDE 9 when I say, “For me, when I think of rejection, I go back to grade school”
   2. Tell a story about being treated unfairly, or being picked on. Relate it to the rest of our lives.
   3. Change to SLIDE 10 when I say “At least once in our life, we’ve encountered a person that made us want to do this”
   4. Change to Slide 11 when I say “Lucky for us, Jesus decided to keep doing this instead”
   5. Change to Slide 12 when I say “Look at these words, look at what they threw at Jesus, how would any of us responded to them, or to the next crowd?”
4. Using the World’s Rejection for God’s Glory
   1. Change to Slide 13 when I say “Jesus took us being us, how regularly dismissive and harmful we can be, and responded with this”
   2. Change to Slide 14 when I say “The lesson Jesus took away from His hometown, He made sure to incorporate into the foundation of the disciples’ ministry”
   3. Change to Slide 15 when I say “So they went out, with just about nothing except their faith in Jesus Christ and their trust in the Spirit being with them”
   4. Change to Slide 16 when I say “It worked! In spite of, at the very least regardless of the human element, God’s powerful love was made known in countless lives”
   5. Change to Slide 17 when I say “Take a moment and think about how many people experienced God for the first time in this way”
   6. The Kingdom of God being made known in and through human brokenness
5. Conclusion
   1. Change to Slide 18 when I say “We don’t know how everyone responded that day, or if or when they realized who Jesus really was, but these words from Ezekiel ring true in today’s Gospel passage”
   2. Change to Slide 19 when I read from Ezekiel 2:5 “Whether they hear or refuse to hear … they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.”
   3. Change to Slide 20 when I say “Paul was another one who knew deep down and continually relied on God to supplant and work beyond human weakness”
   4. Change to Slide 21 when I read 2 Corinthians 12:8-9 “I appealed to the Lord … but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."
   5. Change to Slide 22 when I say “One of the founders of our country, George Washington, he also lived out this example by living a life of faithful devotion as he was fighting to make America what he believed it could be”
   6. Change to Slide 23 when I close in prayer