Sermon: **And so they rejected him** (Mark 6.3)

Ross bought a house but not before a few rejections; (one eventually went for around $480k).

Rejection is something we often get used to – in job seeking, in love, even in selection for games at school.

Sometimes this doesn’t bother us, when there is a good reason, or when nothing great is at stake.
Eg when I choose hymns do those rejected mind?

Eg Someone might want to use our church premises; after they look round, they sometimes say no.

But sometimes it can be hard to receive rejection. Why might that be?

*A Place to Call Home* – rejection because not of right class, or religion, or because of homosexuality.

We may try to justify the rejection – a careful choice of hymn or Bible verse:

***The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, God made them high or lowly, and ordered their estate.***

**Do not be yoked together with unbelievers** (2 Corinthians 6.14)

**People who are … homosexual perverts … none of these will possess God’s Kingdom** (1 Corinthians 6.9-10)

Often the justification hides disgust; it is this passion that truly hurts.

TEXT. Mark 6.1-13 has 2 illustrations of rejection – Jesus in Nazareth, and disciples in sharing the gospel.

Rejection here was hard as it was of Jesus as a person, and of the message of God he so strongly believed.

Hardest part of the TEXT is the ‘**And so’.** It was bad enough to be rejected, but the reason was flimsy.

It led to JC being unable (*not unwilling*) to do miracles there – they had no faith in him or in God.

What happened to Jesus, can happen to us. Where is your ‘home town’ = where you are known best?

What happened to the 12, can happen to us. Their rejection was in being unwelcomed & unlistened.

Where are we unwelcomed? Where do folk not listen to what we want to share?

A further question: have there been times when we have rejected others because, knowing them well, we cannot accept them? Have we been unwilling to hear others’ message to us?

We might try to justify the lack of welcome: they would upset things, they are different, they would be better somewhere else. Remember what hurts most is the passion/disgust that lies behind. TEXT.

Eg. MCNZ stance on homosexuality in leadership – the two ‘sides’ are talking in love.

TEXT – we may not agree. Instead, may we face rejection with love, love those we are tempted to reject.