

JESUS- OUR PROOF OF ACCEPTANCE

Introduction

Nothing stings like the pain of rejection. We feel rejected when we aren't selected for a job promotion. We're rejected when someone we thought loved us pulls up stakes and leaves. And it's not only adults who can feel rejected. God wants you to know that you are accepted. He has given us a gift, a perfect gift, to ensure that you and I will know how much we're loved and accepted by Him. That perfect gift is the Christ child, Jesus Christ.

Scripture for study

Message text- Luke 22-28

Adopted by God- Galatians 4:4-7

God's love- I John 3:1

Heirs with Jesus- Romans 8;17

Message Outline

Shepherd were...

- Social Outcasts
- Ceremonially Unclean
- Untrustworthy
- Not Respected

Discussion Questions

1. If you are familiar with a friends' or family's experience with adoption, share some of the details of the process. How long did the adoption take? What were some of the challenges or frustrations?
2. How are some ways that our culture makes people feel rejected?
3. What is your mental image of what the shepherds in the Christmas story were like?

Jesus, Our Proof of Acceptance

4. What does it mean to you to be adopted into God's family?
5. The Bible says that we are heirs with Jesus. What is our inheritance?
6. What has been your greatest blessing from your adoption into God's family?

Review and Reflection

I love the story of the shepherds. Even though they were rough, smelly, unrefined, and probably more than a little rowdy, God chose them to be the very first witnesses to Jesus' birth. They saw Jesus before any priest, any Pharisee, or any government official. I believe they left the manger with the knowledge that they had been accepted by God. Pray that we would understand and receive the acceptance of God this Advent season.