

NOTES:



Groups Sermon Study Questions

Flock of Shepherds

December 10, 2017

Message Summary

Have you ever felt despised? Been rejected? Not taken seriously? On some level this is an experience that nearly all of us can relate to. Whether it be from kids at school, your parents, co-workers, siblings, or perhaps even your spouse, being made to feel less than is not a pleasant experience. God’s Word is full of stories of those who were marginalized by the mainstream, but God used in significant ways. This week, Pastor John shared with us how the shepherds, despised and rejected by their contemporaries, became a vital part of God’s story of redemption. Their “social status” didn’t limit their ability to be used by God.

Consider This:

Have you ever been made to feel “less than”? (Feel free to share details as you are comfortable.)

Why do you think so many people have experienced this feeling?

Do you think the marginalized people have a role to play? Why or why not?

Read Luke 2:8-20

1. Where were the shepherds? What does this suggest about their "social status"?
2. In your own words, describe the scene painted in verses 9-14? What did the shepherds see? How do you think they felt?
3. What charge were the shepherds given? How did they respond?
4. What was their reaction when they saw the baby Jesus? What significant about how they reacted?
5. Looking at verse 20, how did their perspective change?
6. Have you ever had a moment where you were so moved by Jesus, that you just had to share it? What was that like for you?
7. Have you let your "social status" stop you from doing something you believed God wanted you to do? Are there any lingering regrets from that situation that you need to ask God to restore?
8. The shepherds, eventually, went back to being shepherds. How can we allow God to use us where we are at to impact our circle of influence?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

9. What do think the "social status" of the people Paul is writing to was? Does that limit the impact that they can have for Christ?

10. Why do you think, as it says in verse 27 "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise?"
11. How would you summarize the truth that Paul is writing here?
12. What comfort, or encouragement, do you find in this passage?

Moving Forward

Use Me, Lord

This week, let this simple prayer echo through your life. As you pray this prayer, and God reveals how He wants to use you, write it down below as your commitment to follow His leading, like the shepherds following the angels instruction.

"Father, I may not be much, but You are more than enough. You've placed me here. Use me, Lord, to impact one life with the hope and joy found in You."

Father, this is how I believe you might use me this week:
