

The Despised Jesus

Introduction: We celebrate Christmas because we understand the _____ of the event (Luke 2:11; 1 John 4:14). We celebrate Christmas because it is a _____ event. But there is a profound _____ that pervades the Christmas story. It is a partial _____ of Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 53:3; Mat 11:29; Phil 2:5-8).

Jesus grew up despised from His own people and family.

I. Jesus' Rejection

1. At His birth – Mary's _____ Luke 1:26-38; John 8:41

Though Mary is highly favored by God, the gospels suggest that she became an _____ of her family. When Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit, it is possible that her family could not believe her story. She may have been _____ by her family and forced to leave.

- That would explain her visit to _____ (Luke 1:39-45)
- Note that Gabriel appeared to Joseph but there is no indication that he appeared to any of Mary's family members.
- That would also explain why Mary would make the trip to Bethlehem with Joseph while being nine months pregnant.
- It would also explain why they would be shunned by family when they arrived in Bethlehem (Luke 2:6-7).
 - Note the word for "inn" in Luke 2:7 is KATALUNA. In many homes it was a _____ room for traveling friends and family members. Perhaps the reason Mary gave birth in the stable was because word had spread about the _____ Mary brought to the family.

2. His earthly ministry Luke 2:34-35; Rom 9:31-32

- 1) He was rejected by His _____ of Nazareth Luke 4:16-30

- 2) He was rejected by His own _____ Mark 3:21; 31-35; John 7:5; 1 Cor 15:7; Acts 1:14

3. The Cross Mt 27:39-44; Mark 15:19-20

II. God's Vindication

1. God vindicated _____ Luke 1:46-49

Mary viewed herself as God's _____ - fully committed to doing the will of God even though it meant being shamed and shunned and watching her son's rejection and humiliation.

2. God vindicated _____ Phil 2:9-11

Conclusion: If there is ever a reason to fall down before Jesus Christ and acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord and worship at His feet, it is after we have grasped the total _____ and _____ that Jesus experienced at His birth, throughout His life and in His crucifixion.

- Because Jesus was willing to be despised and rejected by MEN...WE are now _____ into His family (John 1:11-12)

- Because of His HUMILIATION, we will share in His _____ (2 Thess 1:10; 2 Tim 2:11-12; Rom 8:17-18)

Study Questions for the message, “The Despised Jesus.”

1. Share some “humiliating” experiences you’ve had in your life. How do those kinds of experiences shape our perspective of being “lowly”? Note how Paul uses the incarnation of Christ to call us to humility in Philippians 2:3-5.

How does our study today affect your perspective on humility and “lowliness?”

2. How did the study today affect your perspective of Mary & Joseph? What can we learn from them about surrender to the will of God when it comes with a cost?

3. Jesus grew up the same way any human grows up in a home and community (Luke 2:52). The difference was that Jesus NEVER SINNED. So how could His brothers and people from Nazareth be so blind to His claim to be the Son of God and Savior of men? And how does that apply to people today who hear the gospel every Christmas and Easter and yet are unaffected by it? See 2 Cor 4:3-6

4. How does the humiliation and glorification of Jesus impact our own testimony and stand in the world? Note from John 15:18-26 reasons WHY THE WORLD HATES CHRISTIANS.

December 2024				
Week 1 Starting Dec 2	Week 2 Starting Dec 9	Week 3 Starting Dec 16	Week 4 Starting Dec 23	Week 5 Starting Dec 30
Day 1: Mark 2	Day 1: Mark 6	Day 1: Mark 10	Day 1: Mark 14	Day 1: Luke 2
Day 2: Mark 3	Day 2: Mark 7	Day 2: Mark 11	Day 2: Mark 15	Day 2: Luke 3
Day 3: Mark 4	Day 3: Mark 8	Day 3: Mark 12	Day 3: Mark 16	Day 3: Luke 4
Day 4: Mark 5	Day 4: Mark 9	Day 4: Mark 13	Day 4: Luke 1	Day 4: Luke 5
Day 5: John 8:12-30	Day 5: John 8:48-59	Day 5: John 10:1-18	Day 5: John 10:22-39	Day 5: John 11:17-44
⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. Ephesians 1:7-10 (NIV)				

