

AWAY FROM THE MANGER

Luke 2:15-20

INTRODUCTION:

- A. This time of year many people are focused on Jesus leaving heaven and coming to earth.
- B. People tend to love the baby Jesus (minus Herod). We celebrate, sing about and worship Him.
- C. While people may love the baby Jesus, what about the man Jesus who lived after the manger?

SOME PEOPLE CHOSE TO HATE JESUS

- A. Jesus spoke of the world's hatred of Him (Jn. 15:18-20).
 - 1. People hated Jesus because He challenged the way people lived (Lk. 13:3).
 - 2. People hated Jesus because He called them to a higher standard (Matt. 5:20).
- B. Jesus was so hated that some wanted Him dead.
 - 1. The religious leaders hated Jesus and wanted to kill him (Jn. 11:53; 12:9-11).
 - 2. The crowd chose Barabbas and Jesus was led away to be crucified (Matt. 27:15-26).
- C. The hatred of Jesus is so intense some in our society want to silence Christians and Christianity.

SOME PEOPLE CHOSE TO REJECT JESUS

- A. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be despised and rejected by men (Isa. 53:3).
- B. Jesus was rejected by His own people (Jn. 1:10-11)
 - 1. Jesus was rejected by the people of Nazareth (Mark 6:1-6).
 - 2. Jesus was rejected by those closest to Him (Mk. 3:21; Jn. 7:5).
- C. People reject Jesus by the way they choose to live (Titus 1:16).
 - 1. Some people love the darkness more than the light (Jn. 3:19, 20).
 - 2. Some people are just afraid of what others might think if they claim Jesus (Jn. 7:13; 9:20-22)

SOME PEOPLE CHOSE TO LOVE AND OBEY JESUS

- A. Some people were standing with Jesus while He was being crucified (Jn. 19:25-27; Matt. 26:56).
- B. The church grew extensively in the 1st century in spite of the persecution Christians faced.
 - 1. The apostles proudly proclaimed what they had both seen and heard (Acts 4:20; 5:42).
 - 2. Those who were scattered due to persecution, "went about preaching the word" (Acts 8:4).
- C. To love Jesus is to obey Jesus (Jn. 14:15).
 - 1. We are only friends to Jesus if we do whatever He commands (Jn. 15:14).
 - 2. Are you willing to obey Jesus and do what He has commanded? If you truly love Him you will.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The thought of a baby being born in a manger may be cute, but there's more to Jesus than just the manger.
- B. Jesus lived to die so we could die to live (Rom. 6:3-4).
- C. How will you respond to Jesus away from the manger? The choice is yours right now.