

A Christmas Journey

December 12 & 13, 2009

There are certain things in life that we can't accept and shouldn't. There are also things (and people) we should accept but have a hard time accepting.

In today's production we meet a man who had something in his life that he just couldn't accept. He also had someone in his life that he couldn't accept.

1. Think of that **something** in your life that you have had a hard time accepting.

•It is probably some loss, but it may be _____.

2. Identify, as well, that **someone** you can't accept but know you should.

•It is probably a relative, but it may be _____.

3. Consider the **solution** we experience when we see Christmas for what it is.

•Accepting Christ brings us into God's family and empowers us to accept both the _____ and the _____ we have a hard time accepting.

John 1:12 - "To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

Gal 4:4,5 - "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that he might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

4. Like the story of the man in the play, the **story** of the man in Larry's office shows the value of God's Christmas gift, Jesus Christ.

•What is the next step in your journey?

Questions for Personal Reflection And Group Discussion

1. What did you think of the drama? Could you relate to the main character?

2. This guy had something in his life that he just couldn't accept. Do you?

3. He also had someone who needed his acceptance and approval. He was unable to show love to his adopted son. Does this situation ring a bell in your life?

4. The man eventually came to accept the fact that there are some very tough things that happen in this life that we can't control. He also accepted his adopted son. How? What did he see and come to understand that made the difference in his story?

5. According to John 1:12, what does God grant to those who receive Jesus? Gal 4:4,5 show us that the purpose of Christmas was that we could be adopted into the family of God. What else do these verses teach?

6. God adopts us into his family, giving us an inheritance we don't deserve. See Rom. 8:15, 23; 9:4; Eph. 1:5; 3:14,15. What does all this mean? What does it mean to you?

7. In the play, the man gets to take a journey back in time to see the first Christmas. There in Bethlehem, he comes to understand what he had been missing all along. What can you do this season to grasp the meaning of Christmas?

8. Having heard the story of the man in Larry's office, what is the next step in your journey? You can communicate with the church staff by means of the white cards and/or come forward at the end of the service for prayer.

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