

"His Own Rejected Him - Have you?"

Thoughts to Ponder

- 1. For many of us, the Advent Season accelerates the pace of our lives, the pressures under which we live, and the persistence with which we continue to do our own thing.
 - a. Describe the ways in which this statement applies to you.
 - b. During Advent, are you more focused on preparing for Christmas than on the meaning of Christmas? If so, how might you reverse your priorities? If not, describe what you've done to avoid this trap.
- 2. Many of us have heard the Gospel accounts of Christmas so often that we've become indifferent to them, so much so that the royal gets lost in the routine.
 - a. In what ways do you deem the word "royal" to be applicable in your understanding of the biblical Christmas accounts?

- b. Have you ever been surprised with a new insight into the glory and majesty of events leading up to and including the birth of Jesus? If so, please elaborate.
- 3. A recent survey of active Church members from across the denominational spectrum revealed that 28% of them believed humans are inherently good.
 - a. Do you agree with the 28%? If not, why not?
 - b. No doubt the 28% and the other 72% have different views of the coming of Jesus. How might their views differ?
- 4. When confronted by rejection, Jesus responded with grace, stretching His arms wide open on Calvary's Cross, offering undeserved and unearned love.
 - a. Give examples of how you have responded to rejection?
 - b. Looking at your responses to rejection, what might people conclude about your relationship with Jesus?
- 5. Advent's message is simply this: Jesus came not just to tell us, but also to show us how much God loves us. We can respond with either rejection or acceptance. Please explain in depth how you have responded.

