The Christmas Refugee

At the very beginning of His life the baby Jesus entered into the ancient pattern of hostility from the world that has always marked the people of God (Matthew 1:13-18).

**1. Jesus and Israel**

A. Israel was *God’s son*

Exodus 4:21-23; Hosea 11:1

B. Israel was *persecuted*

Exodus 1:8-22

C. Israel’s *mother wept*

Jeremiah 31:15

**2. Jesus and Moses**

Moses was the deliverer who   
  
*escaped the king’s wrath*

Exodus 2:1-10

**3. Jesus and You**

A. Expect the *hostility of the world*

John 15:18-24

B. Have *compassion on refugees*

Leviticus 19:33-34; Luke 10:30-37

C. Have communion *with Christian refugees*

**For additional study or family discussion**

1. What did the Lord say to you today through His word? Did you learn some new truth about God or yourself? Did the Lord challenge you, convict you, or encourage you?

2. The parallels between Christ and certain institutions, persons, and events in the Old Testament are so pervasive and so often mentioned in the New Testament that we ought to stand amazed at God’s wisdom and control over history, for He designed these parallels. Two are especially pertinent to today’s message:

Jesus is the perfect “Israel” who succeeded where Israel failed.

See Isaiah 49:1-7 where Jesus is “My Servant, Israel” (v. 3) who will bring national Israel back to God and become a “light to the nations” (v. 5-6).

The life of Moses prefigures the life of Jesus in many ways.

Acts 3:17-23 (with Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

Acts 7:17-35 and 51-53 (the rejection of Moses by his brethren parallels the rejection of Christ by the Jews)

Hebrews 3:1-6

3. When have you exercised compassion toward those who are not of “your set?” When have you gotten personally involved with them? How can you translate your feeling that America is no longer a welcoming home for Christians into sympathy for those who are fleeing their homes?

Personal Hygiene Items to make “blessing bags”

for distribution at New Bethany

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| tooth-brush | toothpaste |
| roll of toilet paper | hand sanitizer |
| soap | wipes |
| shampoo/conditioner | deodorant |
| mouthwash | gloves/scarves |