

ONE OF US

(Galations 4: 4-7)

Intro: I'll call him Al.
-Because he was an alcoholic.

Al had a lot going for him.
-Intelligent.
#Well educated.
#Responsible job.
-Lovely family.
#Beautiful wife.
#Two children.
-Nice home.
#Al had it all.

Al lost it all.
-Because of his drinking.
#Fired from his job.
#Divorced by his wife.
#Alienated from his family.
-Al met another woman.
#Moved in with her.
*He could be charming when he was sober.
#Until one day.
*She, too, got tired:
+Drinking.
+Drunkenness.
*She kicked Al out of her apartment.
-Al left.
#Only to return later in the day.
*Still in a drunken stupor.
*But with a gun.
#Neighbor.
*Saw Al with the gun.
*Called the police.
-Police came.
#Instead of trying to talk Al into:
*Putting down the gun.
*Coming out of the apartment peacefully.
#Police kicked in the front door.

-Al, in a panic, pulled the trigger.
#Shot and killed his girlfriend.
*In front of her adolescent daughter.
#Shot and wounded a police officer.

-Al was arrested.
#Taken to jail.
*Which is where I met him.
#As he began to sober up.
*He realized what he had done.
+Shooting the woman he claimed he loved.
=Right in front of her daughter.

#In his despair.
*Sitting in jail.
*Remorseful for the mess he had made of his life.
+Al tried to kill himself.
=Using:
-Pencil.
-Toothbrush.

-Al landed in the hospital.
#In the security ward.
*Where I visited him.
#Psychiatrist friend of mine also visited Al.
*To do a psychiatric evaluation.
*After his visit.
+Psychiatrist came to my office in the hospital.
=To report on his visit.
+He said to me:
="He's not one of us."
+I said:
="What do you mean?"
-"He's not one of us."
="What?"
-"He's got webbed feet?"
-"He's got 12 toes?"
+My psychiatrist friend said:
="Well, you know."
="He's just not one of us."

I. Jesus Is One Of Us.

A. That's What We've Celebrated With Another Christmas.

1. Word became flesh.
 - a. John 1: 14.
2. Mary gave birth to her firstborn son.
 - a. Luke 2: 7.
3. In the birth of Jesus.
 - a. God took on flesh and blood form.
 - b. God became one of us.

B. St. Paul Affirms That.

1. Galations 4:4.
 - a. Born of a woman.
 - b. Born under the law.
2. He was human.
 - a. He was born.
 - b. He grew.
 - Physically.
 - Intellectually.
 - Socially.
 - Spiritually.
 - c. He suffered.
 - d. He died.
 - You can't get any more human than that.
3. He was born under the law.
 - a. Not just human law.
 - That could issues decrees.
 - *That all the world should be registered.
 - =Luke 2: 1.
 - That could collect taxes.
 - *Luke 20: 22-26.
 - b. But God's law.
 - Circumcision.
 - *Luke 2: 21.
 - Purification.
 - *Luke 2: 22-24.
 - +Mother.
 - =Was to be "purified."
 - Leviticus 12: 1-8
 - +First-born child.
 - =Was to be "redeemed."
 - Within a month of being born.
 - Numbers 18: 15-16.

+Required by the law.

=Luke 2: 22.

=Luke 2: 23.

=Luke 2: 27.

=Luke 2: 39.

-Mary and Joseph are again portrayed.

#As law abiding citizens.

*That Mary and Joseph offer:

+Two turtledoves.

+Two pigeons.

=Luke 2: 24.

=Indicate they were poor people.

-Unable to afford the regular offering of a lamb.

#Leviticus 5:7.

#Leviticus 12:8.

4. Jesus became one of us.
 - a. Born of a woman.
 - b. Born under the law.

II. So That We Might Become One With Him.

A. Redeemed.

1. "When the fullness of time had come,
God sent his Son,
born of a woman,
born under the law,
in order to redeem those who were under the law."
 - a. Galations 4:4-5.
2. What does it mean to be redeemed?
 - a. Greek word literally means:
-"To buy back."
 - b. Some of you are old enough to remember green stamps.
 - When you bought something.
#Usually in a grocery store.
 - You got green stamps.
#You took them home.
#You pasted them in a book.
 - When the book was full.
#You took it to the store.
#Store redeemed your book of stamps.
*They bought it back.
*They gave you cash for your stamps.

- c. Now we have Community Bucks.
 - When you buy groceries.
 - #At Food Pyramid.
 - You can receive Community Bucks.
 - #If you ask for them.
 - When you donate your Community Bucks to the church.
 - #Put them in the offering plate.
 - #Give them to Mary in the church office.
 - Food Pyramid will redeem them.
 - #Buy them back from us.
 - #Give us cash for them.
- 3. In Jesus God redeems us.
 - a. Through Jesus.
 - Born of a woman.
 - Born under the law.
 - Condemned under the law.
 - Crucified under the law.
 - Resurrected.
 - #Outside of the law.
 - #Over and above the law.
 - b. God redeemed us in the fullness of time.
 - Bought us back.
 - #When time was running out.
 - #When we were running on empty.
 - #When we had nothing to offer.
 - Bought us out of slavery.
 - #Slavery to sin.
 - #Slavery to the law.
 - c. So that we might be free.
 - Not free to do as we please.
 - But free to do what is pleasing to God.
 - #As:
 - *Spirit of God.
 - *Spirit of the Son.
 - +Lives in our hearts.
 - #So that we can act like we belong in the family.
 - *Family of God.

- B. Adopted Into The Family Of God.
1. Through the waters of Holy Baptism.
 - a. For Makenzie Louise Bridges.
 - Whom we will baptize in our 11:00 service.
 - b. For each and every one of us.
 2. Makenzie is one of us.
 - a. Human.
 - b. Sinful.
 - c. Inclined to divide the world into groups.
 - Them.
 - Us.
 - #Them.
 - *Not my mom.
 - *Not my dad.
 - *Not my grandma.
 - *Not my grandpa.
 - *Not a red-stater.
 - *Not a blue-stater.
 - *Not a Christian.
 - *Not a Lutheran.
 - *Not an ELCA Lutheran.
 - *Not an Ascender.
 - #Us.
 - *Folks who:
 - +Look like us.
 - +Think like us.
 - +Vote like us.
 - +Believe like us.
 3. Makenzie is going to become one of us.
 - a. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. In water and the word.
 - Redeemed like us.
 - Forgiven like us.
 - Adopted like us.
 - Child of God like us.
 - #Who can dare to call God "Abba."
 - *Galations 4:6.
 - #"Abba."
 - *Like a baby's first words.
 - +Abba.
 - =Dada.
 - +Imma.
 - =Mama.

- #Words of one who belongs in the family.
- *Adopted into the family of God.
- Heir like us.
- #Her name written in the Book of Life.
- *Like ours.
- #Her name written in God's "Last Will and Testament."
- *Like ours.
- #Her name included among those who will inherit.
- *Kingdom of heaven.

Concl: Martin Luther called it a "sweet swap."

- Jesus becomes one of us.
- #Born of a woman.
- #Born under the law.
- So that in faith we might become one with him.
- #Redeemed.
- #Forgiven.
- #Adopted into the family of God.
- #Fed.
- *Christ's very body.
- *Christ's very blood.
- +In bread.
- +In wine.
- =It's for:
 - You.
 - Me.
 - Al.
 - All those who, in faith, become one of us.

