

THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS PART II DECEMBER 18-19, 2021

INTRODUCTION

- If we really understand Christmas we understand Christianity.
- Last week we talked about the light that has come into the darkness.
- Isaiah 9:2 NIV, “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light...”
- Today is the same as Jesus’ day. People live in darkness.

I. THE DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS

1st - The Incarnation;

- Matthew 1:22-23, “...they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”
- Immanuel - God with people, the heart of Christmas.
- John 1:14, “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory...”

2nd - A baby... who is a king?

- Matthew 2:2, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? ...”
- Matthew 2:1-16 - Herod killing babies so he could eliminate this king.
- We love the baby until we realize He wants to rule over us.

3rd - This King doesn’t act like a king.

- Nathaniel asks in John 1:46, “Can anything good come from Nazareth?”
- Everything about this baby king is inside out.
- This all makes Jesus hard to receive.

II. HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO CHRISTMAS?

- Luke 1:28-38, “...The Lord *is* with you.” But she was very perplexed at *this* statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was... “...behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus...” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be...?” The angel answered... And Mary said, “Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.”
- How does Mary respond to the incarnation?
- Vs. 29 - “Mary was greatly troubled...”
- Greatly troubled = agitated, confused, perplexed
- Luke 1:41-55 - Mary goes to Elizabeth and gets a clear confirmation this is God and she totally surrenders.

III. WHAT DO YOU DO WITH THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

- Luke 2:8-20 - Story of the shepherds
- The angels came and told them “Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.”
- Vs. 15 - Immediately went into Bethlehem to see.
- Vss. 17-18 – “When they had seen Him they spread the word concerning what had been told them...”
- Vs. 20 - They returned glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard.”
- Two things here: They heard and they went, then they told others what they experienced.

CLOSE

- Luke 2:19 - Mary “treasured all these things.” Means she literally “kept them alive in her heart.”
- Psalm 119:11, “I have hidden your word in my heart.”
- Mary grabbed the moment and hid it in her heart. Do you do that with the things God speaks over you?