

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

“LOVE CAME DOWN”

SCRIPTURE: 1 JOHN 4; 1 CORINTHIANS 13; LUKE 1:26–38;

LUKE 1; MATTHEW 22:37–40; ROMANS 5:6–8;

SPEAKER: SAT: ASSOC. PASTOR JAKEEM MORGAN

SUN: PASTOR SHANE CARROLL

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INTRODUCTION

- Week 1 - Hope Has a Name. Hope is someone who breaks into our darkness.
- Week 2 - Peace is not the absence of trouble it's the presence of Jesus.
- Christmas is God entering the story Himself.

I. LOVE IS

- 1 John 4:7-12, "...¹⁰ This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins."
- John tells us from his experience with God in the flesh that God is Love.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV - The Character of Love:
 - Patient - Never pressures
 - Kind - Considerate
 - Doesn't Envy - I don't like me; I can't let you feel good about you.
 - Not Rude - Live with respect for all people.
 - Not Selfish - Love is concerned with prioritizing others.
 - Not Irritable - Love is not Grouchy.
 - Believes in what is Right
 - LOVE never celebrates evil...ever.
 - Doesn't Quit - Never gives up, does the hard work.
 - Always Hopeful - It always assumes the best about others.

II. OBSCURE ORIGINS

- Luke 1:26-38 NLT, "...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin named Mary..." "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!"...

³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name Him Jesus. ³² He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High..."

- Luke 1:38, "Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her."
- Before Jesus is received into the world, He is received into a heart.
- Jesus was literally in Mary, just like He came to give the chance to live in us.
- It is from the obscurity, in the dark unseen places God does His best work.

III. Love Lifts Up

- Luke 1:39–45 NLT, "...⁴¹ At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit..." "God has blessed you above all women..."
- Luke 1:46–55 NLT
- Mary knew what we need to remember; God scatters the proud, lifts the humble, fills the hungry, remembers the forgotten.
- Jesus comes down to lift up.

IV. LOVE CAME DOWN

- Philippians 2:5-8, "...⁶ Though He was God...He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being..."
- God doesn't just shout His love from heaven. He brings it down Himself.
- Love has a name. His name is Jesus.

CLOSE

- Romans 5:6-8, "...⁸ But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."
- Luke 2:10-11
- Love is what makes Christmas personal.
- Christmas is God whispering into the world: "This is how much I love you."