



CHRISTMAS EVE SERMON

Luke 2:1-20

- There are many Christmas “stories” we love to watch and/or read, but there is only one Christmas story that has the ability to transform our lives (Luke 2:1-20).
- *What do we learn from the “Christmas story” we’ve read and sung about today?*

We Learn From The “Real Christmas Story” That:

LIFE IS GOING TO BE FILLED WITH LOTS OF HARDSHIPS

- *“Because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.” (Luke 2:4-7)*
- **Life is often filled with all kinds of hardships.**
- Jesus - *“Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)*
- **In the midst of our trials we have to learn how to turn to the Lord and trust in Him.**
- ***What difficult situation or relationship do I need to ask God to help me with at this time?***

We Learn From The “Real Christmas Story” That:

THE COMING OF JESUS BRINGS GREAT HOPE TO OUR WORLD

- *“Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!’” (Luke 2:9-11)*
- **Since Jesus has come to our world, We Know We Are Significant To The Lord.**
 - The Angel - *“I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.” (Luke 2:10)*

- **As a result of their life experiences, many people feel insignificant and doubt they really matter to God or others.**
- **The fact that Jesus came to help every person in the world reminds us that we are special to the Lord and that He has great plans and purposes for us.**
- *“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* (Jeremiah 29:11)
- **Since Jesus has come to our world, *We Know We Have A Savior For Our Lives.***
 - **Many people don’t have joy or hope because of the trials and temptations they struggle with in their lives.**
 - The Angel - *“The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!”* (Luke 2:11)
 - **Jesus came to our world to deliver us from *The Sinfulness Of Our Lives***
 - The Angel to Joseph – *“She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.”* (Matthew 1:21)
 - **Jesus came to our world to deliver us from *The Strongholds Of Our Lives***
 - Jesus - *“If the Son sets you free, you are truly free.”* (John 8:36)
 - **Jesus came to our world to deliver us from *The Struggles Of Our Lives***
 - Jesus - *“The Spirit of the Lord . . . has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted and to announce that captives shall be released and the blind shall see, that the downtrodden shall be freed from their oppressors, and that God is ready to give blessings to all who come to him.”* (Luke 4:18-19 TLB)
- *“When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’ They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.”* (Luke 2:15-16)
- **Like the Shepherds in the 1st century, we need to pursue connecting with Jesus.**
- **We can connect with Jesus by:**
 - ***Receiving Jesus As Our Savior***
 - ***Spending Time With Him Daily In Bible Reading And Prayer*** (the Journey Through The Bible adventure can be found at www.celebrationchurch.org)
 - ***Regularly Being Involved In Church Services And Growth Opportunities***
 - TRANSFORMED begins in January 2021
- The Angel to the Shepherds - *“Don’t be afraid . . .”* (Luke 2:10)
 - **Fear is the most prominent negative emotion people struggle with today, and it robs us of joy, peace, purpose and productivity in our lives.**
 - **The most common directive from God in the Bible is: *“Do not be afraid. I am with you.”***
 - The Lord - *“Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)
 - **The coming of Jesus into our world means we no longer have to be afraid of what we will encounter in this life or the next life because when Jesus is our Savior He will always be with us to help us.**

- ***What is the Lord communicating to me through this message?***