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Christmas Eve: Believe in the Miracle of God With Us

Scripture: John 1:1-14 | Background: Luke 2:1-7

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. [4] In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. [5] And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. [6] There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7] This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe"

John 1:1-7

In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God. The Word was God. Everything was created through Him, everything exists because of Him. This is the God we're talking about - the One who holds all things together, who spoke creation into being, who sustains every atom and star and breath. And then, incomprehensibly, He came near to us. He didn't stay distant or abstract. He became flesh. He lived with us. He dwelt among us. On Christmas Eve, we celebrate the ultimate miracle. We celebrate the many reasons of John 3: 16, we celebrate the "so loved": not just that God sent a message or gave us a rule book, but that He came Himself- so close we could touch Him, so present we could know Him. The God With Us didn't come just for Christmas night. He came so we could know and believe in Him today. Christmas is an invitation to move beyond simply believing that Jesus existed but to also believe in who He is, what He has done, and what He came to do in our lives.

Think: God didn't stay distant. He came near. Jesus is God With Us.

Feel: Hopeful and amazed that the God who created me chose to come near to me.

Do: Receive Jesus, not simply as the baby of Christmas, but as the Savior and Lord of your life. Take time today to thank God that He came near, and in your heart, draw near to Him.

POINT #1: GOD DIDN'T STAY DISTANT

John begins his Gospel in a way that is very different from some of the other Gospels. Luke, for instance, gives us the story we're probably most familiar with. Mary. Joseph. Bethlehem. A manger. Shepherds. Angels. But John starts somewhere much bigger. Listen to how he begins.

Read John 1:1-3

John doesn't begin with the traditional Christmas

story. John takes us all the way back to the beginning because he wants you to understand something before you ever get to verse 14 and the birth of Jesus. Jesus didn't begin in Bethlehem. Jesus didn't come into existence on Christmas morning. Before there was a baby, there was the Son. John says, 'In the beginning was the Word.' And the 'Word' used here is an interesting one, originally used to communicate something much bigger than a simple spoken word. Jesus is not just another word or name, He is the very expression of God. In other words, if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. Then John says: "Through him all things were made." The baby in the manger is the One through whom the universe was created. The little hands that Mary held had created her. The voice of the baby crying in Bethlehem was the voice that had spoken creation into existence. The One lying in a feeding trough was the One who made the animals that were standing nearby. That's the miracle. Jesus isn't just a baby whose birth we celebrate once a year. Jesus is God who came near. And that's what Christmas tells us. In the middle of our mess. In the middle of the good, the bad, and the ugly. We are not alone. Jesus has been there since the beginning and became one of us… God is with us. And then, John says something in verse 14 that may be one of the most beautiful statements in the entire Bible.



Read John 1:14

The Word became flesh. God became human. He lived among us. He came close enough to be seen. Close enough to be touched. Close enough to be heard. Close enough to be known. This is the heart of Christianity. And maybe that's what some of us need to hear during this season in our lives. Because there are moments in life when God can feel very far away. You pray, but it feels like nobody is listening. You ask God for help, but the situation doesn't change. And in those moments, one of the questions we can ask is: "God, where are You?" And Christmas gives us the answer. In the Christmas narrative, God is saying, "I am here."

Discussion Question: Have you ever experienced a time when simply knowing someone was with you made a difficult situation easier? How does that help you understand "God with us"?

POINT #2 – GOD CAME INTO OUR MESS

Jesus didn't come into a perfect world. He came into a mess. Luke tells us that Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because of a census. And when they arrived, there wasn't a comfortable room waiting for them. There wasn't a hospital. There wasn't a nursery. There wasn't a beautiful crib. There wasn't even a proper place for them to stay. Today, Jesus desires to enter your mess. If He could handle theirs, He can handle yours.

Read Luke 2:1-7

These verses are unbelievable. The Savior of the world was born into such humble circumstances. The King of Kings didn't arrive in a palace. He arrived in a manger. The Creator of the universe entered His creation through a teenage mother in an ordinary place. These are powerful verses because sometimes we think God will only show up when our lives are cleaned up. We think we have to get everything together before God will come close. We sometimes think: "Once I fix this..." "Once I get my marriage figured out..." "Once I overcome this..." "Once I stop doing that..." "Once I become a better person..." On and on we go. But in the birth of Jesus, we find that God didn't wait for humanity to become perfect before He came. He came because we weren't perfect. It's an invitation for you to believe in the miracle.

Read John 1:10-12

Did you hear that? Some recognized Him. Some didn't. Some received Him. Some rejected Him. And that's still true today. Christmas puts the question in front of every one of us: "What will you do with Jesus?" Because you can celebrate Christmas without believing in Christ. You can put up a Christmas tree and never surrender your life to Jesus. You can sing "Silent Night" and still keep Jesus at a distance. You can come to church every Christmas Eve and still never actually receive Him. Christmas isn't just about what happened in Bethlehem. Christmas is about what is happening in your heart. Do you believe in the Miracle of Christmas?

Discussion Question: Have you ever experienced a

time when simply knowing someone was with you made a difficult situation easier? How does that help you understand "God with us"?

POINT #3 – BELIEVE IN THE MIRACLE

So today, on Christmas Eve, believe. Not simply believe that Christmas happened. Not simply believe that Jesus was born. But believe in who Jesus is. Believe that the God, who created you, loves you. Believe that He came near. Believe that He stepped into our world. Believe that He knows you. Believe that He sees you. Believe that He has not abandoned you. Believe that His grace is greater than your sin. Believe that His love is greater than your shame. Believe that His presence is greater than your fear. And believe that Jesus came not just to be part of your Christmas tradition. He came to become Lord of your life.

Maybe you've spent your whole life believing in God from a distance. But today, maybe the invitation is to move from believing about Jesus to believing in Jesus. You can believe that an airplane can fly. But eventually, you have to get on it. You can believe that Jesus saves. But eventually, you have to trust Him with your life. And maybe today is the day you stop keeping Jesus at a distance. Because it reminds us of something else John wrote

Read John 1:4-5

IMPLICATIONS & ACTIONS

The darkness has not overcome it. That's the Christmas message. And maybe today you're walking through some darkness. Maybe you don't know what next year is going to hold. Maybe you have questions you can't answer. Maybe you're facing something you never expected. Today, I want you to hear the good news of Christmas: The darkness does not win. Because the Light has come. And His name is Jesus. So today, as we celebrate Christmas, don't just believe in a baby. Believe in the Savior. Don't just believe in a manger. Believe in the Messiah. Don't just believe that God came into the world. Believe that He came for you. Put your face on the verse, John 3:16. Can you see that you are one of the many reasons God came near? We believe you am one of the many reasons God sent His Son. The God who seemed so far away came near. And His name is Jesus.

"Lord, Jesus, I confess that I have sinned. Lord Jesus, forgive me of my sins. I believe Jesus is Your Son and You sent Him to save me. I believe that He was crucified, buried, and raised again three days later. And I believe that right now Your Son is praying for me. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen." If you prayed that prayer or one like it, then welcome to the family of God. Call us and let us know of your decision. If you need information on next steps… give us a call at 214-375-5952.

Merry Christmas and to all;

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

