

GIVING UP ^{ON} Christmas

December 23, 2018 · Pastor Eric Wakeling

Giving Up Apathy (for Love in God's Presence) Matthew 1:18-25 & Luke 2:1-7

Apathy responds with duty and kindness

- Joseph was righteous and honorable but he was not yet a risk-taker.
- Background on Joseph and the Nativity story (See Digging Deeper on back)
- Joseph was willing to respond with mercy and honor, but his commitment, interest and passion end there until the angel appears to him.

God calls for passionate commitment and love

- Matthew 1:20. ἐνθυμηθέντος (enthumethentos) - considered.
Definition: To revolve thoroughly in the mind, to be concerned or angry at, to consider carefully.
 - Some scholars believe this should be translated - "while he fumed over the matter" or "while he was disturbed by the matter." This is more than just thinking about it.
- Joseph reprocessed his anger into grace in a similar way to God the Father.
 - Luke 14:16-24 - Parable of the Dinner
 - Mark 12:1-12 - Parable of the Vine-growers
 - The book of Hosea
- Belief in the love of God is intended to be action-oriented. Being dutiful and good is ok, but virtue is through how a person lives, not only how a person speaks.
- Joseph had to get on board with something that was crazy and impossible. It took an angel to get him to believe.
 - God has more for you than a life of security and safety. He first offers love and then offers purpose.

Immanuel shows us how God loves us with His presence and with action

- Joseph's fatherly and sacrificial love symbolizes the love of God the Father.
- God the Father so loved the world that He gave His only Son.
- Immanuel - God with us. Jesus' birth is all about the gift of God's presence with us. Jesus made a way for us to connect with God through His life, death and resurrection. The Holy Spirit now dwells within us. (John 14)

Digging Deeper + LifeGroup Discussion:

Background on Joseph and the Nativity story

- Joseph was technically a “royal” of the line of David from the City of David (Bethlehem) whose name would have opened up homes to him from many family members.
- Mary’s cousin, Elizabeth, lived only a few miles from Bethlehem with her husband Zechariah and Mary had recently stayed with them.
- Joseph was a man of honor in a culture of hospitality. Joseph would be “in trouble” if he didn’t turn to Mary’s relatives in a crisis like this. In this culture of hospitality, even the shepherds would have taken them in if they truly were in a cave or outdoor stable.
- Luke 2:4-6 states that they arrived in Judea and then “*while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.*” The baby did not come instantly upon arrival.
- Simple village homes did not have separate barns or storehouses for animals. The main room of homes was a family room where the entire family cooked, ate, lived and even slept. Sometimes there was an upper room for additional sleeping quarters for the parents or to be used as a guest room. There was a lower room next to the family room that was a storage space and would hold the animals at night. Mangers were made of stone, wood or cut out of the stone in the structure of the home.
- Inn. Kataluma or Pandocheion?
 - πανδοχείον (pandocheion) is a commercial or public inn. This is used in Luke 10 in the story of the Good Samaritan.
 - κατάλυμα (kataluma) is a guest room or upper room. This is used in Luke 2 and in Luke 22 for the Last Supper.

Next Steps:

JOIN A LIFEGROUP: LifeGroups are ongoing small group communities that gather together throughout the week to CONNECT in a smaller setting, GROW together in our faith, and REACH out together to our community. To get involved or for more information, contact Connections + LifeGroups Pastor, Robert Carter, at rcarter@calvarylife.org, or indicate “LifeGroups” on The Card (located in the chair rack in the seat in front of you). calvarylife.org/lifegroups

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES: We invite you to wrap up the season of Advent—of waiting and longing for the Messiah’s arrival—by welcoming the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. On Christmas Eve, December 24 at 2:00 and 4:00 pm, come enjoy Christmas songs, creative elements, a biblical message and the lighting of candles. Because through these moments we will present the good news of Jesus, which is a promise of God’s hope, peace, joy and love for a weary world in need of a Rescuer. calvarylife.org/christmas

THE WEEK THAT CHANGED THE WORLD SERIES: Beginning December 30, join us each Sunday at 9:30am for this series journeying through the final chapters of the Good News of Mark. Come see how Jesus, in the week that changed the world 2,000 years ago, is still changing lives today. calvarylife.org/series



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