

Influence Ministries

WHO NEEDS CHRISTMAS?

LESSON 2

TITLE: GOD NEEDED CHRISTMAS AS WELL.

Isaiah 9:6

This will happen when the special child is born. God will give us a son who will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be "Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace."

The events surrounding the birth of Jesus, they're unbelievable.

It's unbelievable because there are things that just don't happen anymore.

I know this is supposed to be inspirational, the manger scene and the whole Christmas thing, but it's just unbelievable.

But what we began to discover last week, as we launched into this series, "Who needs Christmas?", is that what makes the event surrounding the birth of Jesus believable is that the entire story is so unbelievably remarkable.

As it turned out, it wasn't just the world that needed Christmas, and this is going to sound strange, but GOD NEEDED CHRISTMAS AS WELL.

Parents, you've had this feeling:

I sure wish my kids understood how much I love them.

I sure wish my kids understood how much I cared for them.

I sure wish my kids would stop believing that I lay in bed at night trying to come up with ways to make their life miserable.

I sure wished my kids understood that I really do have their best interest in mind, because if they knew how I felt about them, they would trust me.

Every parent has had that internal conversation. We've even tried to explain it to our kids.

What do you do if you're God?

What do you do if you're the invisible God?

What do you do if you're not tangible, you're almost seemingly unknowable?

How does God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, how does God communicate to you how He feels about us.

In a material world, that has turned inward, and turned their back on God.

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And the answer to how God communicates how much He loves this world and how much He loves you, is Christmas. It's Christmas.

Here's the question we're going to wrestle with today, because this is the Christmas question.

Why did God have to send somebody?
Why did God have to send a baby?
Why did God cram Himself into a body?
Why God in a body?
Why not just send us another messenger?

But it gets even more complicated. When the said time had fully come, God came to be born of a woman, born under the law.

So now the question is not just why God in a body, but why God in a baby body?

Why not show up like all the rest of us, as one of us?

And not as a law unto Himself, but He comes into this world as a baby under the law.

He doesn't walk onto the pages of history and say, "Now that I'm here, everything's different."

He was born under the law, accountable to the law.

Why did God need Christmas? It was to do what laws and regulations could not do.

It was to do what judges and prophets could not do.
It was to do what exile and punishment could not do.
It was to do what even sacred text could not accomplish.

God was ready to do something personal, so God had to do something relational.

God wanted to do something for you personally and a message or a messenger wouldn't get it done.

God needed Christmas. To redeem those under the law.

God wanted to move not simply nations and tribes and groups of people but move individual people into a personal relationship with Himself.

And so, at Christmas, God took the first step to remove all the obstacles of un-restricted fellowship with God.

That all the barriers, all the boundaries would be removed. This was personal, so He had to come.

A message wouldn't get it done.
Another letter wouldn't get it done.
Another prophet wouldn't get it done.
Another miracle wouldn't get it done.

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So, at just the right time, God staged a demonstration

Try to imagine all the things that have happened in history for the last 2,000 years, most of which you know nothing about.

You can't name the names, you can't name the dates, you can't give us the details.

Many important significant things have happened in history over the past 2,000 years, that weren't even written down, that weren't even recorded, that just went away.

And yet think of it, the birth of a Jewish baby in the Roman empire became a household name.

When the set time had come, when the time was perfect, when God knew it would not slip through the cracks of history.

He came into this world born of a woman, to redeem those under the law so that we might experience a relationship with Him.

And here's what I don't want you to miss because this is the message of Christmas.

When you dishonor the source of life, you dishonor God.

To dishonor the source of life is an expression of in-gratitude, deserving the forfeiture of life.

In other words, you owe, and I owe, we owe God our lives, and our disregard for God forfeited our right to life.

You see, every single day of your life, we should get up and just say, "God, thank you for my life."

How could I say no to God who gave me life?

How could I resist God who gave me life?

How could I resist the will of God who gave me the opportunity to live?"

And yet, we do it every single day.

God needed Christmas to demonstrate and document His love for this rebel race.

So, when the set time had fully come, when everyone had given up hope, when nobody was looking for it, when the Roman empire had laid the groundwork for the message to be distributed, when the temple system had fallen in and was so corrupted people thought, "If that's what God is like, there is no more God."

When the set time had fully come, a Jewish carpenter discovers his fiancée is pregnant and as he's trying to figure out, "What am I going to about this?"

What am I going to do with her?

Do I shame her?

Do I protect her?

Do I lie?

Do I marry her?

Do I tell her mother?

What do I do about this?"

Then the angel of the Lord spoke to Joseph, that bewildered Jewish carpenter, and he said this...

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Matthew 1:20-25

²⁰ *But after Joseph thought about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to accept Mary to be your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit.*

²¹ *She will give birth to a son. You will name him Jesus.^[b] Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.”*

²² *All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord said through the prophet:*

²³ *“The virgin will be pregnant and will give birth to a son. They will name him Immanuel.^[c] (Immanuel means “God with us.”)*

²⁴ *When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord’s angel told him to do. He married Mary.*

²⁵ *But Joseph did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And he named him Jesus.*

So God staged a demonstration and documented it so the world would know, so that 2,000 years later we would know.

GOD NEEDED CHRISTMAS to demonstrate and document His love for this rebel race.