

A Thrill of Hope Part 2

Chains Shall He Break, The Slave Is Our Brother

Main Idea: ALL ARE FAMILY when the LIGHT of Jesus comes in ...

Last week, we talked alot about WHY Jesus came to us, born as a baby, to bring all into God's family. We talked about the thrill of hope is that we are not left as orphans, but adopted as sons and daughters!

What a powerful moving service we had last week AND someone

Mathew and John echoed the prophecy of Isaiah - the people of darkness have seen a great light!"

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." ESV

Isaiah's words had come to LIFE: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Those living under the oppression of slavery - whether it's literal enslavement or simply the slavery of sin - **JESUS COMES TO BREAK EVERY CHAIN OF SIN and make every person our BROTHER and SISTER! WOW.**

“Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

You see in Jesus’ Kingdom, yes, we’re all different, given different abilities and assignments but we’re all loved the same. **1**

In Jesus’ Kingdom, we’re all given the SAME VALUE.

This remarkable love of God MUST break into our hearts and even if you’re a Christian - this love needs to break into your heart AGAIN so that you truly see every single person - at the bank, at your child’s basketball game, at the store, at the meeting at work - every person - as a CHILD of GOD.

Luke’s Gospel records one of the first angelic visitations: “In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob, forever; his kingdom will never end.” We read last week about Joseph, Mary’s fiancé, and how he struggled with Mary’s news. He did not want to disgrace her publicly so he had decided to break the engagement quietly, until he too had an angelic visitation... *(Maybe put the image up I’m going to use Christmas Eve)*

Matthew records an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, **"Joseph, son of David, Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."**

Jesus came to save us from our sins because our sins keep us in slavery. His grace brings us liberty!

What a miracle this was! Mary was carrying the very child of God! God’s ONLY Son! R

Caesar Augustus' decreed that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Again - with a political motive - a motive of control.

Can I briefly take a side note. Ceasars desire to take census for the purpose of political gain and perceived power is in stark contrast to the leadership of God.

In Jesus' Kingdom, He doesn't aim to control you or twist your arm into anything. It's simply love. It's pure, parental-like love.

Joseph was a man of integrity Scripture indicates - a man of honor - so he obeyed the law about this census. Mary and Joseph traveled to their ancestral town of Bethlehem to register. This fulfilled the prophesy of Jesus' birthplace being Bethlehem, the City of David.

**The LIGHT of HEAVEN was about to enter the DARKNESS OF EARTH
Heaven and earth was about to be bridged - as divinity and humanity became one.**

This was not an easy journey ... It's hard enough for a pregnant woman to get out of the van and walk into Walmart or Target, let alone a 90 mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

That took incredible courage and patience.

The Romans were ruthless in their quest for domination and their judicial system spread far and wide in the Mediterranean world. If they had avoided this journey, Ceasar's men would've found out.

So this was a 9 to 10 day journey as most estimate about 10 hours a day with this sort of travel.

But they finally make it to the City of David. As you know, all the hotel rooms were taken. And there was no AirBnB app they could use.

So... they went to a nearby stable and a miracle happened - the with sign of heaven - a huge star above the town that night.

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

That light above the City of David and maybe even right above that barn, was a symbol of God's light breaking into our darkness.

When we are in darkness, we live in fear, that fear causes our brother to appear as competiton or even our enemy.

Darkness leads to fear. Fear leads to pain.

Light of God leads to love. Love drives out fear and leads to peace - peace with God and peace with people.

The Angle's message was ringing clear "Peace on earth. Good will toward men." Only God can change a heart and cause it to go from "bad will and bad motives" to "good will and good intent" towards other men.

When we live in the love and light of the Father, we see that "the slave is our brother." Every person is created by God with intrinsic value. Jesus' birth came to demonstrate God's love and God's light breaking through the darkness, bringing hope and answers to a hopeless and questioning people.

Scripture makes it clear that it's the humble who experience the richness of God's grace.

The humble realize their need for a Messiah. They realize that they are in darkness and in need of God's light.

When we remember WHY we have the incarnation, we're taken full circle. We see in our mind the day when every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus is Lord.

(Phil 2:6-11)

Jesus' humility really is remarkable! This is the KING of HEAVEN - the one to whom ALL ANGLES and ALL CREATURES bow and worship and yet he came NEEDING parents and needing help. WOW. Divinity took on humanity.

When we think about our FUTURE with CHRIST - where His glory and power evermore shall be - we become even more thankful for the WAY that He came.

Jesus, the Son of God came in such humility. His humility in how we came teaches us how we are to come to Him - humble.

To use the words of Charles Spurgeon... "The Son of God became a son of man to make the sons of men, sons of God."

He is and WAS the light of the world, breaking through the darkness in the fullness of time. But ONLY the humble would even notice him.

One of the first humble people to realize that God was up to something big was Zachariah, a priest. He and his wife Elizabeth had never been able to have kids and now they're hold and have come to term with the fact that maybe they'll never get to see this Messiah they had read about and even recited so many times from the Torah and the Prophets.

We learn in Luke 1:5-25 that an angel named Gabriel surprised Zachariah with a special gift - an announcement! He WOULD IN FACT see the Messiah before he died!

He was so shocked by the message though he didn't believe it. For that unbelief he was made to be mute - unable to speak.

Imagine an articulate priest - a teacher of the word - being unable to say a word. Here he was now struggling to communicate with hand signals.

Like every "bad" situation, God is doing a lot of good in the background. Maybe God was teaching him how to quietly reflect and stand in awe at God's handiwork. Maybe God didn't want any unbelief to spread - we don't know all the reasons why. But we do know this. Months later when he laid eyes on baby Jesus, HE SPOKE! HE SHOUTED! He had seen what he longed to see His entire life! THE MESSIAH!

JESUS! THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

The Savior of not just the slave but the slave's owner.

The Savior of not just the shearer but the pharisee.

The Savior of every man woman and child would could call upon His name.

THE CHOSEN created a mini movie called The Shepherd that I'm going to play today because I was so moved by it. I love seeing how God is using the arts, acting and music and film to illustrate God's goodness and the message of the Gospel. The last half of this sermon, we'll be watching this video. I pray that it speaks to you like it did to me.

VIDEO: The Shepherd (19min)

MUSIC FROM SPOTIFY STARTS WHEN VIDEO ENDS

SALVATION CALL

Do you know Jesus? Have you let the light of the world into your heart?

Right now I want to give you an opportunity to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. I want to invite you to LET THE LIGHT come in.

We sang a song earlier that said "Into the darkness God sent His light to shine and show His glory. Jesus in me, making me holy. Into the darkness of my heart, God has sent His light..."

Let the glory of Your face shine in everyone's embrace. Let there be light."

Communion as Response Time

I'm going to ask the Ushers to pass out the communion bread

Jn 8:28-38

²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father

taught me. ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to him.” ³⁰ As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

The Truth Will Set You Free

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. ³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. ³⁷ I know that you are offspring of Abraham; yet you seek to kill me because my word finds no place in you. ³⁸ I speak of what I have seen with my Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.”

[*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Jn 8:28–38). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

You may not realize that Matthews Gospel actually quotes the passage from Isaiah about Jesus being the light in the darkness. Notice how Jesus ministry begins...

Mt 4:16-17

“The people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

This idea of GOD’s light coming to a dark world is replete throughout scripture.

Notice how Mt 4 quotes the passage about Jesus being the light then says “Jesus began to preach saying “Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Here’s the thing ...

You won’t be free from the chains darkness until you repent and admit that you need to be free. The only thing required for salvation is admission - admitting your need for a Savior - admitting your need for a light - admitting that you are walking in darkness - an unknowing ...

John 12:44-50

JESUS is the LIGHT that you and I need.

The light we need to see, to understand, to be at peace.