

Sermon Questions

A Nativity Christmas

Luke 2:1-7

Pastors Jeff Hinds and Andrew Gutberlet

CONNECT:

- How do you pass on the Christmas story to younger generations?

GROW:

- This week's sermon tells of a tradition of sending gifts to those in need as part of the celebration. Have you ever participated in such a tradition? Or been a recipient of such kindness?
- Read Luke 2:1-2. We learn that the decree by Caesar Augustus played a role in fulfilling prophecy - that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Looking over your life, is there an occasion that at the time seemed random but in hindsight was the hand of God? What were the circumstances?
- Read Luke 2:3-5. Were you surprised to learn that Mary did NOT ride a donkey on her 70–100-mile journey to Bethlehem, but walked? How does that change your understanding of the story?
- Read Luke 2:6-7. Do you believe that Jesus genuinely came to save all types of people? Yourself? If not, what roadblocks are you facing?
- Following Jesus cost Mary greatly. How has this been true in your life? What has been the reward (besides salvation)?

GO:

- How can you tell others of the true meaning of Christmas this week? How can you remember for yourself?

Sermon Notes

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Jesus came to save sinners, like all of us, from our sin. To cleanse us, redeem us, and to grant eternal life as we believe in Him alone, as our personal Savior and Lord. Several key Scripture include:

Romans 3:23 (ESV): “**for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**” Sin is rampant in each of us. Sin is any attitude, thought, motive, action, or inactivity that is less than God's perfect will. Each one of us is a sinner, and each of our sins form a barrier between us and God. Our sin barrier, unless it is paid-for (atoned-for), will keep every person in all of history from entering Heaven. Heaven is a perfect, flawless place, and our sin, if not first covered, would ruin it. Thus, sin must first be paid-for (atoned-for) before anyone can go to Heaven. Jesus offers to be the payment for our sins! Jesus, who never sinned, willingly died on the cross, and was covered with our sins (see 1 Corinthians 5:21 below). As sin is worthy of death (see Romans 6:23 below), Jesus died for us, was buried, and after 3 days rose again conquering death. By faith and acceptance of Jesus alone as the payment for confessed (agreed upon) sin, and in God's power, seeking to turn (repent) from sin, a person is forgiven, cleansed of one's sins and redeemed. In doing so, Jesus becomes one's personal Savior and Lord.

1 Corinthians 5:21 (ESV): “**For our sake He** (God the Father) **made Him** (Jesus) **to be sin** (to be covered with our sins on the cross) **who knew no sin** (Jesus never sinned but willingly paid the penalty of our sin which is death. He died on the cross, was buried, and then rose on the third day), **so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God**” (by accepting Jesus, by faith, as one's Savior and Lord, His death on the cross becomes the payment of one's sins, and His righteousness is then imputed to each believer and covers/atones for each believer's sins).

Romans 6:23 (ESV): “**For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” What we deserve for our sin is to be separated from God forever—yet God became man (Jesus), lived a perfect life, and paid for our sins on the cross through His death. He then conquered death, rose again, and offers salvation for all who, by faith, receive Him as Savior and Lord.

Romans 10:9—10 (ESV): “**because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.**” If you have not already, ask Jesus to be your personal Savior and Lord!