

Wednesday Encouragement
December 23, 2020

Leading up to Christmas in our Wednesday Encouragement messages, we've talked about hope, peace, and joy. I'm thankful to Anthony and Stacy for taking us down that path so far. And so now we're to the week of Christmas, the final week of Advent. In fact, as my youngest, Finn, expressed to me this morning we're only going "two sleeps" away from Christmas day. My kids love Christmas. And I'll be honest, while we do our best to make sure our kids understand the real reason for the season, they're also definitely looking forward to presents and being off from school.

But to me, the most important thing we can understand about Christmas, about the birth of Jesus, is centered around the idea that "Love Came Down." There's a song from a few years back that is actually called, "Love Came Down." The lyrics go like this:

If the storms of life, they come
And the road ahead gets steep
I will lift these hands in faith
I will believe
I'll remind myself
Of all that you've done
And the life I have
Because of your son
Love came down and rescued me
Love came down and set me free
I am yours
Lord, I am forever yours
Mountains high or valley low
I sing out and remind my soul
I am yours
I am forever yours

That's not even a Christmas song, but it does a really good job of describing what it meant for love to come down—for Jesus to be born that night in Bethlehem. The Christmas story is about love. So much of Jesus' teaching was centered around love. Jesus' death and resurrection were about love.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (NLT)

2 Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. 2 You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. 3 All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

4 But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, 5 that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

Because of God's love for us, Jesus came. Because of God's love for us, Jesus died for our sins and rose again. Because of God's love for us, we have been rescued and set free. Because of God's love for us—because of Jesus—we have freedom and can live out the days of this life with hope, expressing that same love to one another.

When love came down, love came down for everyone. Who in your life needs to experience that love this Christmas season?

Kraig