

Thursday, December 20, 2018

To My Victory Baptist Church Family,

I hope you have enjoyed and been challenged by our 2018 Christmas Series. This series has been developed around a song called, "A Strange Way to Save the World," recorded by a group called 4Him. I'm sure you've heard it. Here's how the song goes:

"I'm sure He must have been surprised at where this road had taken Him
'cause never in a million lives would He have dreamed of Bethlehem.
And standing at the manger He saw with His own eyes the message from the angel come to life.
And Joseph said...
'Why me, I'm just a simple man of trade?
Why Him with all the rulers in the world?
Why here, inside this stable filled with hay?
Why her, she's just an ordinary girl?
Now I'm not one to second guess what angels have to say,
But this is such a strange way to save the world.
To think of how it could have been
If Jesus had come as He deserved
There would have been no Bethlehem
No lowly shepherds at His birth.'
But Joseph knew the reason love had to reach so far
And as he held the Savior in his arms, he must have thought,
'Why me, I'm just a simple man of trade?
Why Him with all the rulers in the world?
Why here, inside this stable filled with hay?
Why her, she's just an ordinary girl?
Now I'm not one to second guess what angels have to say,
But this is such a strange way to save the world.'"

This song, performed by a group called "4 Him" has been developed through the eyes of Joseph. Joseph is looking around at the situation that he and Mary find themselves in, and during the course of this song, "Joseph" asks several very insightful questions.

As we have followed along, we have also asked a number of questions, and that is what our sermon series has been built around.

- * Question #1 – Why Did God Become a Man?"
- * Question #2 – Why Bethlehem?"
- * Question #3 – Why Joseph?"

Question #4 will be asked this weekend, Lord willing. The question is "Why Mary?"

I don't know whether or not you have ever asked these questions about the Christmas story, but the truth is God planned each and every single detail that would take place in the Christmas story before He ever laid the foundation of the world! And the more I think about it, the more appropriate this song has become in my own mind.

When God does not answer our "Why" questions, we can still trust Him! NONE of the characters in the Christmas story understood completely what was going on. But did God know what He was doing? Absolutely He did! He ALWAYS does. And you can take that to the bank. Whatever it is that you are going through today, whether you understand what God is doing or whether you do not, you can STILL trust Him!

Why indeed did God choose to save the world the way He did? Why did God choose to come to earth in the form of a helpless, naked baby? Why did God choose to come to earth in a very small, insignificant town like Bethlehem? Why did God choose to come to earth with a seemingly common young carpenter like Joseph? Why did God choose to come to earth through the virgin womb of a young teenage girl like Mary? And that list of questions could go on and on. Why the Shepherds? Why? Why? Why?

And the ultimate answer to those questions is "Because God chose to do it the way He chose to do it." It seems incredible to me that God wanted to offer to the whole human race salvation and eternal life at all. It seems even more incredible to me that God has done everything possible to make the gift of eternal life available to anyone and everyone who wants it FREE OF CHARGE.

Most of the religions of the world teach that something needs to BE DONE in order to receive this gift. The Bible teaches us, however, that salvation and forgiveness is a FREE gift that is offered to us because of the Grace of God plus NOTHING. What a deal!

I would also like to take this opportunity one last time to remind you that we do have a Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24 at 6:00 pm. This service is NOT expected to last more than 45 minutes so that you can get back to your Christmas Eve celebrations.

Jeanette and I hope and pray that your Christmas season is both Christ-filled and Christ-centered, and that your focus is on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Reason for the Season. Merry Christmas.

Pastor Larry

I sure hope to see you this weekend as we worship Almighty God together. God is sooooo good! Please come to worship with a Bible in your hands, and excitement in your heart. God is an awesome God, and He is worthy of all of our praise and our worship.

Pastor Larry