

CHRISTMAS 2020 SURPRISES PART II “INSEPARABLE”

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MALACHI 3; ISAIAH 55; ROMANS 8; PSALM 5
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INTRODUCTION

- Often the “box” of life that looks like loss is the doorway God chooses to do His best work and surprise us.
- Uncertainty is a pre-requisite for surprises. Certainty eliminates the fertile ground that surprises require.
- Certainty is synonymous with safety.
- The surprise of Christmas was never tied to presents. But in fact it is fully connected to His Presence.
- Christmas was a surprise by design.

I. ALWAYS THE GOD OF SURPRISE

- God is in the business of taking the uncertain and doing His best work which always surprises.
- Often fear compels us to desire certainty and avoid the uncertain.
- Often leaves us wondering why? Why does He work that way.
- Israel lived in expectation for centuries. God was silent for 300 years.
- Malachi 3:1 MSG, “Look! I’m sending my messenger ... Suddenly, out of the blue, the Leader you’ve been looking for will enter His Temple... A Message from the mouth of God-of-the-Angel-Armies.”
- The story of Christmas was designed to interrupt our disappointment, our despair, and the silence with a great surprise.

II. JESUS, MASTER OF SURPRISE

- From the beginning Jesus made a habit of revealing who God is by moving in the uncertain moments.
- Jesus’ greatest surprise came in His purpose, to unite people with the Heavenly Father.
- At some point in our journey our fear and uncertainty will be intersected by surprise and it should lead us to wonder.
- Isaiah 55:8-9, “My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts,” says the Lord. “And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine...”
- Usually we assume God will operate like we think He should!

III. WHAT CAN SEPARATE?

- Romans 8:31-34, “...Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for His own? No one—for God Himself has given us right standing with Himself...”
- Romans 8:35-37, “Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? Does it mean He no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity...³⁷ No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.”
- The biggest surprise of all is [and always will be] just how much we are loved by our Heavenly Father.

CLOSE

- Romans 8:38-39, “And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love...”
- Nothing can separate us from God’s love.
- This is the greatest surprise of Christmas, life, and eternity.
- Psalm 5:11-12, “...Spread your protection over them, that all who love Your name may be filled with joy. ¹² For You bless the godly, O Lord; you surround them with your shield of love.”