



why CHRISTMAS?

LUKE 1:5-17

WHY DO WE NEED A SAVIOR?

DECEMBER 3, 2023

SERMON SUMMARY

Pastor Nathan answered the question of "Why Christmas?" for us this week. He focused on helping us understand why Christmas is important, what conditions brought it about, and why it is still necessary.

He said that to understand the question, "Why Christmas?" we must immerse ourselves in the true story the Bible is telling. Once we know that story and our role in it, we can truly appreciate why Jesus came to earth as a little child and marched to the cross.

He shared that the story begins in Genesis, where light and life burst on the scene; where God creates the world and mankind. Specifically, God makes man for a purpose, which is to know and serve him (vertically) and know and serve others (horizontally)

But in the garden, Adam and Eve rebelled against God, which separated them from Him and each other. In so doing, we introduced cancerous sin and unbearable shame into our family gene pool. Now we all are doomed: forever to be separated and alienated from GOD and each other. But God gives us hope that one day, a savior will return.

And for thousands of years, the story doesn't get much better. It gets worse. People have turned their hearts against God and others, experiencing the full effects of our sin and desperately trying to hide from its shame.

This is why Christmas exists. This is why we needed a savior to be born.

And thankfully, as God promised, he would not abandon us though we leave him. Because of His great love for us, light burst on the scene a second time with the birth of the savior, Jesus. Who would come to do what we could not do: save us from our sin and free us from our shame.

If this is true, which it is, then Pastor Nathan challenged us to do one of two things:

1. Accept this story as true and see our need for a savior.
2. To live in light of this story, safe from sin and free from shame.

And if we do these things, we will have a profound answer to the question "Why Christmas?" for ourselves and others.

Following Pastor Nathans's lead, let's explore the story we find ourselves in so we can live it more freely and fully.

DISCUSSION



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: you do not need to ask every question but can select the best ones for your group dynamic.

We all are living a story. Sometimes, we live in a fantasy story; sometimes, we live the real story. Either way, the stories we tell and live impact how we live our everyday lives.

- How do the stories we live by impact our everyday lives?
- If the story we live by isn't a true story, what can we assume will the impact be?
- If we live life by a true story, what can we assume the impact will be?

Sometimes, we can get lost in the story we are living and, therefore, need clarification on what is true and what we should be doing.

- Why is remembering the larger story so essential to living the story well?

Pastor Nathan reminded us that when the Christmas story begins, it is only one moment amid God's larger story that has been active since the beginning of time. That story is this:

Creation: God Creates all things good for the purpose of being connected to him and each other.

Fall: Humankind rebels and separates itself from God and others.

Redemption: God sends his Son, Jesus, to pay the penalty for our rebellion and restore those who return to him in Faith.

New Creation: God comes back again to Judge creation and makes all things new.

We must know this whole story well to live in light of it.

- Which piece of this story is hardest for you to remember? Why?
- How does forgetting this part of the story affect your everyday life?

How would life be different in the following categories if we lived in light of the whole story:

- Feelings?
- Thoughts?
- Behaviors?
- Relationships?
- Work?

Pastor Nathan gave us hope that the sin and the shame we bear is exactly why Jesus came that first Christmas. When he died and rose again, he completed the task of removing its stain on our record and the crippling shame in our hearts. We are now free and defined by God, which allows us to live out our purpose of knowing and serving God and knowing and serving others.

- What is one thing you can do this week to turn your heart back to God and his story?
- What is one thing you can do this week to turn your heart on others?

Close in Prayer