



The Glory of Christmas

Part 2

Ice Breaker: What are your Christmas plans?

Please read together:

John 5:39 (NASB), Isaiah 7:14 (ESV), Isaiah 7:10-12 (NLT), Isaiah 7:13 (NLT), Matthew 1:21-23 (ESV),
Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

Discuss:

What was your biggest take away from the message this week?

Here are a few of the things that struck me. Ponder these and talk together about how these truths affect us/you.

>>>The Christmas story is a Jewish story, but most people who celebrate Christmas are not Jewish. The story is extremely tragic. Grandparents and parents recounted the tragedies of Roman oppression. We don't understand the story and history as well as a Jew would understand it, but we have been given an opportunity to benefit from the coming of the Messiah.

>>>Prophets would give instructions to help the people prepare for the messiah. Their whole culture centered around preparation for Messiah.

>>>God does not forget His promises. We question so many things.

The prophet Isaiah saw something out in the future that was 700 years away. They thought it was for their immediate circumstance, but it was for the Ultimate salvation of all people.

>>> Prophecies were often given from Mountain tops. The declarations made on a mountaintop were given to describe what they are seeing on this mountain top and the mountain tops that they can see in the distance around them. It's important for us to understand that because we don't know the valleys in between the peaks. We don't know the terms or the context. The prophet sees the peak and speaks about the event. We often don't know what will happen on the journey from one mountaintop to the other.

>>> One is coming TO us who is not FROM us. He is FOR us, NOT FROM us. One is coming to be like us. God came so that man would know that God understands what it's like to be human.

Read together:

Isaiah 9:7 (ESV), Luke 4:18-19 (ESV), Luke 4:30 (ESV)

Isaiah is telling about a peak that God becomes us, for us, to live a life the no man could live. The second peak is of his coming kingdom. The Jews thought that the first coming and the second coming would be at the same time. They expected the arrival of the Messiah to alleviate all the suffering at the same time.

>>> We know that the Messiah came and is coming again. The Jews missed the Messiah coming because the coming and the establishment of the government did not happen as they expected. What things has God promised that you are tempted to doubt because your expectations were different than what has played out?

>>> We are waiting in the tension of living life here and waiting for the day when there will be no more pain. We are not there yet. How can we live now for God's glory and look forward to the peak that is coming without distraction?

Pray together:

Father,
Help us to remember that your ways are not our ways. Help us to hold on while we wait for the next peak. As we celebrate the peak that brought you to earth to be with us, help us to look with Hope for your second coming with faithfulness and joy.
In Jesus' name! Amen

Merry Christmas friends!!!
Blessings to you for a wonderful holiday celebration!