

Fulfillment

Series: Advent: Thrill of Hope
December 20, 2015

INTRODUCTION

We are currently in our sermon series called “Advent: Thrill of Hope.” Today, we looked at the familiar Christmas story found in the Gospel of Luke.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The word Advent originated from the Latin word *adventus*, which literally means *arrival*. More specifically, this word refers to the arrival of someone of great significance. Have you ever anticipated meeting someone of great importance? (e.g. first date, celebrity, etc.) What did you do in preparation for the meeting?
2. Read Luke 2:1-3. What information does Luke provide concerning the circumstances surrounding Jesus’ birth? Why do you think Luke went to the trouble of mentioning these details?
3. Read Luke 2:4-7. Describe the situation that Joseph and Mary found themselves in just prior to the birth Jesus. Where was He born? What were the conditions and environment in which He came into this world? Why would this be significant?
4. Read Luke 2:8-15. Who did God choose to give the good news to first? In what manner did God unveil the message? Who would you have chosen to share this news with?
5. Read Luke 2:16-20. How did the shepherds respond after seeing the baby Jesus? How did the people in the region respond to the news from these shepherds? What was Mary’s response to everything that had occurred?

CONCLUSION

The world tells us to spend and receive and give to our friends and loved ones during the holidays, and by all means, we should, but perhaps the real purpose of the Christmas story is to once again move us closer into becoming more and more like Christ, who came in the most unexpected way possible, to the most undeserving of all people, to redeem and rescue those living in darkness.

The word “Christmas” is a combination of two words *Christ* and *mass*, which is an Old-English word for *festival*. And so if you put these 2 words together, it literally means a *festival* or a *celebration of Christ*. During this Christmas season, God’s desire is for us to turn our affections and our attention towards Christ His Son. And as the Church, He is calling us to shine His light; to befriend and bless and serve those who are in the margins of our society, so that the true meaning of *Christ--mas* can be fulfilled not just in our own hearts, but in our world.

As we reflect on this familiar Christmas story may our prayer be: “*Lord, may Christ--mas be fulfilled in me. And may my life be a celebration of Christ.*”