

# Sermon Notes – December 8, 2019

## Advent 2019

During the season of Advent, we shine a spotlight on God’s masterpiece – His great story of redemption! “The Christmas Story” is not simply *one* of the stories in the Bible; it is part of one *truly glorious* BIG story that God is writing through human history. At Sunset Bible Church we follow an original, seven-year Advent teaching plan:

- “The Promise” – The Gospel in the Abrahamic Covenant (2016)
- “Under His Wings” – Jesus as our Kinsman Redeemer (2017)
- “Shepherd Warrior King” – Jesus, the Greater Son of David (2018)
- “A Light in the Darkness” – God speaks through His prophets in Israel’s darkest hours (2019)
- “The Dayspring from On High” – The Christmas story from Luke’s gospel (2020)
- “Joy to the WORLD” – God’s Mission to the ends of the earth (2021)
- “From Heaven’s Portal” – Christmas from Heaven’s perspective (2022)

## History is Full of God’s Faithfulness & Human Sin

Today’s starting place: II Chronicles 36:15-21

- ⇒ The amazing love of our sovereign God: Deuteronomy 7:6-8
- ⇒ The \_\_\_\_\_ of our merciful God: Ex. 34:6-7
- ⇒ The righteous judgment of our holy God: II Chronicles 36:15-16

## What Should We Do When the Darkness IS Our Fault?

As we said last week, not all darkness & difficulty is our fault. We live in a fallen world with illness & brokenness all around us (as in Romans 8:22-23). BUT sometimes we are culpable! Then what?

Key text: II Corinthians 7:5-13

- ⇒ The Apostle Paul identifies TWO kinds of sorrow: the sorrow of the \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ sorrow. Surely expressing regret with tears is true repentance...right?
  - King Saul in I Samuel 15
  - Esau in Hebrews 12:14-17

When the Darkness is Our Fault  
Selected Scripture  
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ In contrast, \_\_\_\_\_ sorrow leads to true repentance.
  - Penance is not repentance, i.e. doing better, trying harder, feeling bad, going to church more, reforming, memorizing Scripture, giving money. A person may \_\_\_\_\_, but not repent!
  - Penance attempts to rob the cross of its power; the Bible does not call us to \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, but to repent.
  - Penance expresses pride: my good works will surely please God and pacify His wrath at my sin.
- ⇒ What does true repentance look like?
  - OT: “to turn or to return” – the call of the prophets (Jeremiah 111x; over 1,050 times in the OT).
  - NT: “to change one’s mind” or “to distress, to grieve” – resulting in actual life change (though change may be \_\_\_\_\_).
  - Biblical repentance is built on a clear vision of \_\_\_\_\_ & perfections. After all, whose standards have been broken? Whose law has been violated? (Daniel 9:3-19)
  - Psalm 51: A humble request for undeserved mercy (1), owning of sin (3), awareness of the God-ward nature of sin (4), a longing for cleansing (7), a desire for a pure heart (10), a truly broken heart (17).

## Responding to God: What does this have to do with Christmas?

- ⇒ If we do not see our sin, we will not value the Savior! John Newton: “Two things I know: I am a great sinner, and I have a great Savior.”
- ⇒ The biggest problem is not the sin of the world in general, but my sin in particular. Sometimes we are more grieved about sin in the world than we are about sin reigning in our own hearts, and we typically raise our kids the same way (i.e. “Evil is out there”).
- ⇒ Repentance should not be a rare occurrence for a follower of Jesus, saved only for the truly “big” sins! Indeed, “*When our Lord & Master Jesus Christ said, ‘Repent,’ He willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance*” (Martin Luther, 1517).

Third Sunday of Advent: December 15, 2019

“Hear the Voices of Hope!”

(Jeremiah 23:5-8; Ezekiel 34; Romans 15:13)

Pastor Jay Mosser