

Sermon Notes – November 29, 2020

Welcome to Advent 2020

During this season of Advent, we will once again shine a spotlight on God's masterpiece – His great story of redemption! What we call "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 all of human history. Here at Sunset Bible Church we follow an original, seven-year Advent teaching plan that looks like this:

- "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 Virgin's Son: Savior of the World" – 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)

God Speaks...In His Perfect Timing (Luke 1:1-4)

- ⇒ This was "the _____ of time" (Galatians 4:4-5) but don't overlook the very long wait!
- ⇒ This was the time long foretold (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Zechariah 9:9; Micah 5:2).
- ⇒ This was the time the angels "_____ to see" (1 Peter 1:10-12).
- ⇒ This was the time signified by Zechariah's name: "the Lord _____" (Exodus 2:24)

God Speaks...to "Normal People" (Luke 1:5-25)

The nation was in darkness; so were Zechariah & Elizabeth (fear, uncertainty, asking "why")

- ⇒ Normal people must _____.
- ⇒ Normal people must take "No" for an answer from God.
- ⇒ Normal people _____ with issues of _____.

God Speaks in the Darkness
Luke 1:1-25 & Hebrews 1:1-4
Pastor Jay Mosser

God Speaks...through Jesus Christ, the *Crescendo* of God's

Revelation (Hebrews 1:1-4)

- ⇒ The ministry of John the Baptist marked a major _____ in the history of redemption (Luke 16:16; John 1:17)
- ⇒ Jesus Christ is the _____ of all Scripture (Luke 24:25-27; Romans 10:4 – "telos")
- ⇒ Jesus Christ is "the image of the invisible God" (Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9)

Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ In the opening verses of the creation narrative (Genesis 1:1-3), God speaks into the darkness and calls forth light! He has been doing that ever since.
- ⇒ What "darkness" exists in your life – not sin, necessarily – but areas in which you cannot see? What fears are you facing? What uncertainties, what questioning? Where do you long for God to speak?
- ⇒ God inhabits *our* seasons of darkness as well. He walks WITH us, and says, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid" (Matthew 14:27). His power & promises & presence are not overcome by the darkness! It has been well said, "Never doubt in the darkness what you believe in the light." He is Immanuel, "God with us."

Second Sunday of Advent: December 6, 2020

"God Comes in Human Flesh"

(Luke 1:26-56 & Matthew 1:18-25)

Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: • fullness • longed • remembers • wait • struggle • faith • turning point • focal point