Who Needs Christmas? | Part 3

Lesson 5

Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-56, 2:1-20; Romans 6:12-14, 23

December 24, 2023

Who Needs Christmas? Everyone Does.

INTRODUCTION

The world that Jesus was delivered into was dead in sin and unaware. God's chosen people were under yet another tyrannical rule, and though they anticipated a savior through their traditional teachings, they had no idea what kind of a savior they really needed.

Jesus was introduced into this world exactly at the time God desired and planned. His ministry was one of humbleness and seeking out the lost, working directly with the individual, meeting needs, touching hearts, and healing all who asked.

Jesus' greatest gift was yet to come, and even when given, most did not understand the impact His sacrifice would have on God's people, as well as the entire world. Jesus sacrificed His life to take upon Himself the punishment for our sins and to repair the relationship we broke with God. We all need Jesus in our world.

Memory verse: "I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her." —Luke 1:38

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

| 1. | Who is Jesus immediately and clearly stated to be in the account of his birth? (Matthew 1:18) |
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| 2. | What unique lineage is Jesus proclaimed to have compared to all others born into this world? (Luke 1:32) |
| 3. | What do the angels proclaim to the shepherds about the one born in the town of David? (Luke 2:11) |
| 4. | Why are we told to offer ourselves to God? (Romans 6:13) |
| 5. | What is God's gift to us all? (Romans 6:23) |

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. Why was it important that Mary was chosen as mother of Jesus? (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:32-33, 3:23)

2. What are the promises that are recounted by Mary in her inspired speech (Luke 1:46-55), and why are they significant to Jesus coming into the world? (1 Samuel 2:1-10; Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:6)

3. Why would the savior of the world be born in complete lowliness? What kind of savior were the Hebrew people expecting? (Isaiah 53:1-3; Zephaniah 3:8-9; Luke 2:7, 9:58)

4. What is implied by the phrase, "sin shall no longer be your master" (Romans 6:14), and how does being under the grace of God through Jesus Christ compare to our previous condition? (Romans 6:20, 8:2)

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. As we celebrate Christmas with our families, what thoughts and feelings do these passages inspire?

2. In what ways can you demonstrate your acceptance of, and joy in, the gift of Christ in your family and in your community?

3. Offer a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the birth of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the gift of mercy and grace in covering our sins and restoring our relationship with Him.