



SERMON STUDY GUIDE

“ISAIAH 7 AND MATTHEW 1” ON DECEMBER 7 & DECEMBER 11, 2022

CONNECT

How did last week’s passage we read/discussed affect your week?

DISCOVER: ISAIAH 9:1-7 & JOHN 1:1-4

- What did the passage say (in your own words) or what impacted you/did you take away from the sermon this week?
- How does this passage or did the sermon point you to Jesus (teach us about Jesus)?
- Did you find anything challenging about this passage (words you didn’t understand, phrases that didn’t make sense, etc.)?

ISAIAH 9 AND JOHN 1:1-2, 4 It’s easy to lose our way in the dark. The prophet Isaiah offered HOPE to a lost people living in a DARK land in a DARK time -the hope of a King who would be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The words of Isaiah gave hope to those who heard his words in 715 BC, they gave hope to those who celebrated the fulfillment of that prophecy in the birth of Christ 700 years later, and they still give us hope today!

ISAIAH 9:2 – The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. God always wants to show us He can bring light to our darkness!

- What kind of darkness were the people of Judah experiencing? What was the cause of this darkness? What attributes of God can we see from the people’s time of darkness and from God’s sending Isaiah to prophesy to them?
- What darkness do you see in the world around you right now? As Christians who KNOW this Mighty King, how can we better speak Isaiah’s message into the darkness around us to give people hope?
- What does ‘walking in darkness’ mean to you personally? Can you describe a time or times you have found yourself feeling as though you were walking in darkness? What life factors may have contributed to that darkness, and how did God bring light to your darkness?

JOHN 1:1,2,4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with you in the beginning. In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Light HAS COME! Immanuel, God with us, has been born, and we are offered new life in Him! His name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace!

- Jason gave snapshot views of how Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and a normal Jewish citizen were moved from darkness to light by the birth of Jesus 700 years after Isaiah’s prophecy – review those examples and think how each person must have felt as they journeyed through the darkness into the light.
- What does John 1:4 mean to you – “In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.?” How can you live that out each day?
- In the same way, how does Isaiah 9:6b speak into your life and give you hope – “And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.?”

OUR MERITS, HIS MERCY.....Jesus left the heavenly realms to walk as a human on this earth, willingly bore the cross on our behalf, loves us and wants to save us, to bring light to our dark places, NOT because of our own merit but because of His mercy.

- Can you identify areas in your life that you are relying on your own merit – your own abilities, your own selfishness - to find your own way rather than having the courage to ask God to step in to bring light to your darkness?
- Jason shared that the first moment we recognize we need light in our darkness is the first moment we find true peace. What would true peace look like in your life? What stands between you and true peace right now?
- Who in your life needs to know the message of Isaiah 9 and the encouragement of John 1? This Christmas season, how can you point them toward the Light of the World?



CHURCH

LOVE GOD, LOVE PEOPLE

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RESPOND

- How does this passage encourage you, challenge you, or change you in your efforts to become more like Jesus?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself from God's Word? How will you respond in obedience this week?
- Who is someone you can have a conversation with about what Jesus is doing in your life or invite to join you at a CU Church gathering.

PRAY

... for each other and spend time praising God. Pray that he will show you how to better love God and love people.