The Story: Chapter 22 Birth of a King

Pastor Kevin Donoho September 10, 2023

DURING THE STORY SERIES, REMIX CLASS SESSIONS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO SEGMENTS:

- 1) THE STORY STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS CHOSEN BY THE LEADER.
- 2) THE FOLLOWING REMIX QUESTIONS:

Opening Discussion

 What thoughts, feelings, or impressions do you have about the sermon this week?

Thought #1: The Moment Everyone Has Been Waiting For...

Read John 1:9

"The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world."

For so long, God's people had lived in the dark. But now, the true light had arrived. It's time for the big reveal.

It's easy to look at this moment in the Bible as a new chapter or a turning point, but Pastor Kevin reminded us that the arrival of Jesus was not the introduction of a new character. Rather, He had been in the story from the very beginning. He was with God in the beginning, through Him all things were made, and without Him, nothing was made that has been made.

Think back over your life to highly anticipated moments. A vacation you looked forward to for months. A graduation you had been working toward for years. A promise you had been waiting a lifetime to see fulfilled.

How did the actual moment live up to the anticipation? Was it all that you expected? Did it under or overwhelm you? How do you think

the highly anticipated moment of Jesus' arrival was received by His people?

Consider the ways Jesus shows up in your everyday life. Are there moments you expected Him to show up in big ways, but it looked different than you imagined?

Read John 1:14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

The one who created all things was on the scene, but in scripture, we see that many struggled with Him not meeting their expectations.

John 1:11 (TPT) says "He came to the people he created—to those who should have received him, but they did not recognize him."

Where do you struggle to recognize Jesus in your own life? Do you have areas where wrapping your head around Him is difficult? Are there expectations of Him you need to surrender, asking Him to shape and inform them instead?

Thought #2: He is the One We've Been Searching For...

We can discover great meaning in this passage!

 For people who are searching for an image of God, Jesus is the picture we can offer.

Read John 1:18

"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

Looking to Jesus and knowing Him helps develop your picture of the Father. How does this truth shape your view of God?

Some of these include loving, forgiving, humble, compassionate, gentle, patient, and honest. Which of these resonates most with you? Are there other characteristics of Jesus that stand out to you?

2. For people who recognize something in their life is missing, by His grace we are the recipients of the fullness of God.

Read John 1:16

"Out of his fullness, we have all received grace in place of grace already given."

Christ came to offer His full self. That we might be in the right relationship with the Father. And this changes everything!

He fills our gaps to make us whole:

- His goodness for our sinfulness.
- His strength for our weakness.
- His purpose for our confusion.
- His wisdom for our lack of understanding.
- His peace for our hearts that get heavy.

As you read over this list, which of these stands out to you the most? Where do you need Him to fill the gaps for you today, this week, this month? How can you lean into all He has to offer you to experience His fullness?

3. For people who are looking to belong or to discover their true identity, this passage reminds us of who we really are.

Read John 1:11-13

"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

As sons and daughters, our identity is set. We have a Father we can trust. A Father whose footsteps we can confidently walk in.

How does the knowledge that you are a child of God bring you comfort? How does this reminder of your identity bring you peace? How does the knowledge that you are a child of God challenge you? How does this reminder of your identity oppose what the world would have you believe?

Questions for Pastor Todd Keller or Julie Burch regarding your REMIX group?

• Email: Todd <u>tkeller@collegechurch.com</u>
Julie <u>groups@collegechurch.com</u>

***Remember to record your attendance for the week. Thank you.

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