

# Connected Christmas 12/5/21

Pastor Rick

## Message Summary:

Christmas 2021

Connecting Christmas part 1 "Connecting with God!"

Have we attached that same response to God?

If we really understood the Christmas story and message--we would not—fear, but would connect with God.

The irony is we know the Christmas story.

It is a message that is intended to help us with that irrational fear that we have with God. And it is that fear that keeps us from having an intimate connecting with God.

*Luke 2:1*

*Luke 2:2-3*

*Luke 2:4-5*

*Luke 2:6-7*

Buried in this scene is this truth that if it could ever get from head to heart can dramatically change your life!

*Luke 2:8-9*

literally means they feared a big fear!

*Luke 2:10-11*

Good news to ALL people!

Implication, God has decided to something special and it is for all people!

*Luke 2:11-12*

*Luke 2:13-14*

This is the message of Christmas--this is the message of Christianity, get this! God does not treat us as we deserve!

*Luke 2:14*

There was a time when man's relationship with God was not built around fear...

God knows there is a problem--that is the message behind Christmas!

The message of Christmas is real simple..... "Fear not my favor rest on you!"

Fear not I want to "Connect" with you!

*1 John 4:18*

Fear not I want to "Connect" with you!

How will you connect with God this Christmas?

## Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you from the message?
2. Pastor Rick shared, "It's hard to develop a deep connection with those we fear." Have there been times in your life that fear got in the way of you connecting with God?
3. What encouragement do you receive from the Scriptures shared in this message? Read the passages with fresh eyes and make observations.
4. Are there areas in your life that you are hiding from God or others? Spend time reminding one another of the invitation to draw near to God through confession and repentance.
5. We are all wired differently. Do you how or when you feel closest to God? Try out a new way to connect with God this week. Also, check out the resource by Gary Thomas and his book *Sacred Pathways*: <https://garythomas.com/books/sacred-pathways/>