

# Connected Christmas 12/19/21

Pastor Rick - "Connect with the Meaning of Christmas"

## Message Summary:

There's something subversive about Christmas. It turns things upside down!

*Luke 1:26-33*

Notice, first of all, to whom the angel is sent.

The heart of Christmas begins at the bottom of the social order.

It's hard to appreciate the meaning of the first Christmas without recognizing that it came to an oppressed and captive people!

Therefore, we can't celebrate a contemporary Christmas without recognizing that oppression and captivity are still realities in our world today!

Such slavery and oppression are fueled in large part by the world's demands for consumer goods at the cheapest possible price.

This consumer culture is no accident—it is inflicted on us and by us!

The truth is—we're being played and exploited. We've been taken captive by a system that says we have to shop more, spend more, and get more to have a Merry Christmas.

Maybe it's time to reconnect with the true meaning of Christmas – a reminder that this child came to save us and the world.

*Luke 1:39-45*

We tap into the heart of Christmas when we become "mindful" of people that are often forgotten or ignored. Invisible people—the materially poor, the homeless, the prisoner, the lonely.

*Christmas isn't just about peace and joy. It's about justice. It's about the lowly being lifted up, the hungry fed, and the oppressed set free.*

Connect more of yourself to the real meaning of Christmas!

*John 3:16-17*

## Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you from the message?
2. Thinking back to last week's message, share ways you encountered the message of home and dwelling with Christ?
3. What encouragement do you receive from the Scriptures shared in this message? Read the passages with fresh eyes and make observations.
4. How will you apply one thing from what was shared in this message or in your group?