

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

God Comes Knocking

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
December 18, 2022



Luke 2:1-9 (ESV) “In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.”

- **The innkeeper missed the opportunity & many still do.**

“The miracle of Bethlehem still happens. God enters the hamlets of our lives and speaks to us. He speaks through Scriptures, sunsets, the kindness of a friend, or warning of a medical report. He sings to us through Christmas carols. He calls to us through Christmas sermons. He reaches out through the Christmas story.” Max Lucado in Because of Bethlehem

- **God is knocking today & everyday! Do you hear him?**

Revelation 3:20 (NLT) “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”

Revelation 3:17-19 (NLT) “You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. ¹⁹ I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.”

“The mother and father of our Lord were pushed out and rejected. Even before he was born, our Lord was rejected and turned away. The words ‘no room for you’ followed him throughout his life ... There was just no room for him anywhere. It is the same in the lives of many people today, he is still being crowded out. With all the festivities and all the busy-ness, he is an often just an afterthought. Instead of a place of honour at this time of the year, Christ is often shoved into a corner. Even today, there is no room for Jesus.” Max Lucado

What is keeping you from pursuing your relationship with Jesus?

What is keeping you from fully opening the door of your life to Jesus Christ?

1 Peter 1:18-20 (NLT) “For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. ¹⁹ It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. ²⁰ God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.”

Big Idea: Open your heart and welcome Christ in.

How is Christ knocking on your heart today?

- **Let Christ save you.**
- **Let Christ love you.**
- **Let Christ heal you.**
- **Let Christ guide you.**



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

God Comes Knocking

#3 of 4 - December 18, 2022

- 1) Last week we talked about Christ as our Saviour from Matthew 1:18-21. What has God been impressing on your heart this week in light of this message?
- 2) Take time to have one person explain and the practice the 3 Circles Gospel Presentation or share their testimony.
- 3) Read Luke 2:1-9. What is the **Context** for these passages? Where is this taking place in the book as a whole (what comes before or after)? Who is the writer / speaker and who are the recipients? Where does it fit in the Bible? What's the theme of this chapter, or passage? What's the historical and cultural context?
- 4) **Observation:** What "jumps out" in these passages? What interesting details do you observe? What questions come up about this passage? What do you observe in God's commands and the response of the people?
- 5) **Meaning:** What was the meaning for the original recipients? What does it mean for us as we respond to God's invitation for a relationship with Christ?
- 6) Read Revelation 3:14-20. What do these passages reveal about Christ's desire for us? What implications does this have for us?
- 7) How is God knocking on your heart today? What specific steps is God asking you to take in each area?
 - Let Christ save you.
 - Let Christ love you.
 - Let Christ heal you.
 - Let Christ guide you.
- 8) **Application:** How is God speaking to you through these verses and through this message? What specific action step is God asking you to take in light of this teaching? What principles do you need to pass on to others this week?



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