

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

The Cost of Christmas is Not What You Think

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor
December 8, 2019



What will Christmas cost us?

Matthew 1:18-25 (NLT) This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. **19** Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. **20** As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: **23** "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" **24** When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. **25** But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

- **Because Christmas will cost us our reputation...**
We need courage to face opposition and scorn.

Matthew 1:20 "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife."

- **Because Christmas will cost us our self-determination...**
We need courage to follow where Jesus leads.

Matthew 1:21 "And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Luke 9:23 "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves..."

Matthew 1:24-25 "When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. **25** But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus."

- **Because Christmas will cost us our pride...**
We need courage to admit our need.

Matthew 1:21

Matthew 1:23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'"

Big Idea: Comprehend the cost Christ paid for you to be filled with courage to follow.

How do make this applicable today?

- **Ask Jesus to make you more concerned about His reputation than yours.**

- **Admit your sin of self-determination and surrender to His loving leadership today.**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today's 10:10 service are from the New Living Translation (NLT).



**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

**The Cost of Christmas is Not What You Think
#2of 5 - Dec. 8, 2019**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God is asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read Matthew 1:18-25. What do you find interesting about this story?

4) How did following God's plan impact Joseph and Mary's reputation? In what ways have you experienced opposition or scorn because of your faith? What can we learn from Mary and Joseph so we have the courage to follow Jesus?

5) To what degree are we experiencing opposition to our faith? If we are not facing opposition for our faith what might this reveal about our relationship with God?

6) Read Matthew 1:21, 24-25. How is Joseph's self-determination impacted as a result of this announcement and the birth of Jesus? Describe the ways he chooses obedience to God over his own desires and plans. Where is God asking you to choose obedience to Him over following your own plans and desires?

7) Read Luke 9:23. What does Jesus mean by this statement and what are the implications for you today? What does this mean for our Impact Communities?

8) Describe the ways that Jesus required courage to fulfil God's plan of redemption. How does seeing the love of Jesus and the cost He incurred for you, give you courage to give your whole life to Christ?

9) What Action steps will you take today? Take time to pray and ask Jesus to make you more concerned about His reputation than yours. Admit your sin of self-determination and surrender to His loving leadership today.



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