

Sermon Notes

December 22, 2019 - Isaiah 7:10-17 & Luke 1:26-38

Waiting 3: For Love (Mary)

B. Jesus is God’s sign of love to all _____

1. It was out of love for all humanity that God the Son came into the world to be born as a baby in a manger
2. It was out of love for all humanity that the God-human Jesus went to the _____, died and rose again
 - a. to pay the full cost of forgiveness for all sins
 - b. to win eternal life for us
 - c. and to assure us that we are loved and accepted just as we are right now
3. And if God says that we are okay, that must mean that we really are _____

Conclusion: Signs from God in our everyday lives

- A. God sends us signs to _____ us into a closer relationship with him
 1. Big signs: Jesus
 2. Little signs: food, clothing, shelter, friends, etc.
- B. How will you respond to the signs that God is giving you?
- C. Application: As a result of listening to this message, what Good News do I have to share with others?

Summary: Though we often trust in other things to save ourselves, what we have & our hopes and dreams for the future, God sends us signs, large and small, to invite us into a deeper relationship with him. Because of his greatest sign, the gift of Jesus, we can trust that God loves and accepts us just as we are.

Big Idea: God gives us signs of His faithful love toward us, signs which invite us into a deeper relationship with Him where we love and trust in Him.

Intro: Almost missing a sign on the way to a wedding

- B. Signs or bids for _____ connection (The Gottman Institute)
 1. Could be a sigh or a comment
 2. The key to whether a bid leads to greater intimacy or not is the _____ to the bid
- C. The Greatest Lover who ever was or ever will be is God
 1. God is continually sending us signs or bids to _____ us into a closer emotional connection with him
 2. The question is ‘How will we respond to those signs from God?’

I. **The Sign Given to Ahaz** (Isaiah 7:1-17)

A. Background information

B. The prelude to the sign

3. The dilemma faced by Ahaz (vv. 1-2)

- a. Form an alliance with Israel & Syria
- b. Form an alliance with _____

4. God sends Isaiah to Ahaz (vv. 3-6)

5. The message from God for Ahaz (vv. 7-9)

- a. The invasion by Israel & Judah will not happen
- b. Both Israel & Syria will be _____

D. The Sign (vv. 10-16)

1. God tells Ahaz to ask for a _____ (vv. 10-11)

2. Ahaz refuses (v. 12)

3. God gives Ahaz a sign anyway (vv. 13-16)

- a. A young woman is going to conceive and give birth to a _____
- b. Before that son reaches the age of accountability (12 to 14 years old) the _____ of both Syria & Israel will be deserted

4. The third option: the sign is an invitation to Ahaz to trust _____ to protect Judah

E. The Response & Result

1. Ahaz's forms an alliance with Assyria (1 Kings 16)

2. Assyria will be a threat to Judah in the _____ (Isa. 7:17)

II. **The human quest for salvation**

A. Who or what do we trust to _____ who we are, what we have & our hopes and dreams for the future?

B. There is always the "third option" of

1. _____ in God
2. and letting him work out the unsolvable dilemmas we face in a way that he knows is best

C. And ideally, as we respond to God's many bids

1. We would fall deeper in _____ with him
2. So that, our first option is to trust God
 - a. in all aspects of our lives
 - b. To make all things, big and small,
 - c. Work out for the _____ in the end

III. **The Sign Given to All Humanity** (Mt. 1:23)

A. Mary's _____: How can this be? (Lk. 1:34)

1. God's sign "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." (v. 35)
2. Mary's response: "Behold, I am the _____ of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (v. 38)