DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



TEXT SUMMARY

This Sunday is the third sermon in our Advent series. The first four sermons come from the first chapter of Luke's gospel, from the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel's announcement to Mary about what her son would be and do (the Ultimate Gender Reveal).

Speaking of the Son that Mary will soon bear, God's messenger Gabriel says these words:

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Luke 1:32-33).

In this week's text, the angel Gabriel provides more information for Mary about what her Son will be and do.

The main points of the sermon: Mary's Son...

- 1. ...will be more than a man, even more than a great man.
- 2. ...will fulfill ancient prophecies.
- 3. ...will reign in absolute power forever.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

The sermon uses several cross-references. What extra light do these texts shine on our text?

- 1. Philippians 2:9-11
- 2. 2 Samuel 7:12-16
- 3. Isaiah 9:6-7
- 4. Revelation 7:9-10

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DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

Go back to read the lavish promises God makes to David in what theologians call the "**Davidic Covenant**" (2 Sam 7:12-16).

- What was the context for that covenant (what was David planning to do)? How did the Davidic Covenant address David's intentions?
- 2. Which of those lavish promises have already come true?
- 3. If those promises are ultimately fulfilled in Christ, how can we account for 2 Sam 7:14 (the promise to punish the king who "commits iniquity")?

SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

The sermon explores our discomfort with the idea of a "king." Part of that discomfort is **cultural**: the notion that citizens of a representative democracy should be forced to submit to a king, no matter how wise and good that king is... the whole idea rankles our American sensibilities.

But part of our discomfort is because of something even deeper, our own **wicked hearts**: we don't like the idea of surrendering our options to anyone. We want to be our own kings and queens.

Our response to all this is complicated because our theology can be sound even while our heart rebels. After all, we do know that God is wise and good and His ways are always best. But that doesn't mean we're comfortable handing Him the keys.

As you survey the regions of your own heart and mind, what aspects of your life are most difficult to surrender to the wise and good control of the King? Where do you find your own heart stumbling at the notion of that kind of unconditional surrender?