

THE STORY - ADVENT WEEK 4

Christ the King

December 18, 2022

1. Introduction

a. Welcome - Guests - Thank You

- i. Christmas Under the Lights
- ii. World Cup today
- iii. Berlin Aquarium—80-foot cylinder collapsed

b. This week/Next week

- i. Elder nominations in Dec
- ii. Year-End Giving
 - 1. Ending this year on a strong note gives us our best footing - will you be part of it? Information coming this week in the mail to help you prayerfully consider the impact you can make.
- iii. Invitations for Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

c. Advent Series

- i. Theme: The Story (of Jesus, of the Gospel)
- ii. Last Two Weeks:
 - 1. Christ the Creator (Hope). We can have hope this Christmas because the one who was born is the creator of everything.
 - 2. Christ the Promise (Love). Christ showed his love for us by fulfilling God's promised blessing to people from all nations.
 - 3. Christ the Sacrifice (Peace). We don't have to keep sacrificing to maintain favor with God. Christ has secured our favor. Now our response is worship and companionship.
- iii. Today: Christ the King (Joy)

2. **As the eternal King, Christ makes a way for us to honor God.**

- a. I assume you're here because you want to honor God with your life. You want your life to have significance and purpose in God's eyes.

- b. So did David. As a young king, he willingly and fearlessly fought and conquered the enemies of Israel. When his kingdom was established he wanted to honor God by building a proper temple.

- c. **2 Samuel 7:11b-13.**

- i. David wanted to build a temple for God, but that was not God's plan. He would build the house for David.
 - 1. It was customary for a king to build a temple for their god(s). David wanted to do no less for his God.
 - 2. The Israelites had been worshiping in a tabernacle—a tent—a temporary, portable worship space.
- ii. The Lord will use another to build a house/dynasty/kingdom for his name.
 - 1. David's descendant will be king.
 - a. Immediate: Solomon.
 - b. Ultimate: Jesus Christ
 - 2. Christ's kingdom will last forever.

- d. David's joyful response

- i. **2 Samuel 7:18-22.** Then King David went in, sat in the Lord's presence, and said, Who am I, Lord God, and what is my house that you have brought me this far? What you have done so far was a little thing to you, Lord God, for you have also spoken about your servant's house in the distant future. And this is a revelation for mankind, Lord God. What more can David say to you? You know your servant, Lord God. Because of your word and according to your will, you have revealed all these great things to your servant. This is why you are great, Lord God. There is no one like you, and there is no God besides you, as all we have heard confirms.

- e. David wanted to build a temple, but God promised to do much more. David wouldn't get to see it in his lifetime, but the lasting impact would far outlast him.

- i. STORY.

- f. What do you want to do with your life? What might Christ the King want to do through your life?

3. As a compassionate King, Christ lifts up the humble.

- a. **Luke 1:26-33.** In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. **30** Then the angel told her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. **33** He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."

i. Christ's birth was miraculous.

1. Born to Mary

- a. Likely a young teenager
- b. A virgin. More miraculous than barren Elizabeth.
 - i. Theme of God giving children to barren women
 - 1. Hannah, Sarah

ii. Christ's birth was humble.

- 1. He was born to a woman who wasn't even married. She was in the first stage of becoming married to Joseph.
 - a. Stage 1: formal agreement, bride price
 - b. Stage 2: one year later, wedding celebration, consummation
- 2. He grew up in a town of no consequence.
 - a. Luke had to explain where Nazareth was (26).
 - i. Nathanael: "Can anything good come from Nazareth?"
 - b. Jesus was born in Bethlehem and grew up in Nazareth.
 - i. Micah 5:2. Bethlehem is small among the clans of Judah, but a ruler will come from there.
 - ii. Not just a small town, but among animals in a small town.
 - iii. David grew up in Bethlehem as well. Started off tending sheep.

iii. Christ was characterized by greatness (31-33).

1. The name Jesus (or Joshua—Yeshua) means “the Lord saves.”
2. “He will be great.” Contrast with John who would be “great in the eyes of the Lord” (Luke 1:15).
 - a. **ASIDE.** The contrasts with John’s birth announcement highlight both Christ’s greatness and humility. Gabriel announced John’s birth to a priest (Zechariah) on duty in the temple of Jerusalem, the capital city. He announced Jesus’ birth in a modest home in a town most people didn’t know.
3. “Son of the Most High.” A regal title.

iv. Christ was characterized by humility.

1. **Matthew 11:29.** Take up my yoke and learn from me, because I am lowly and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
2. Mary’s joyful response, part 1.
 - a. **Luke 1:46-49.** And Mary said: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, because he has looked with favor on the humble condition of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and his name is holy.

v. Mary was stunned that the Lord chose her for such favor, and it became a source of joy for her.

vi. Where have you received favor you don’t deserve? Can it be a source of joy for you this Christmas?

1. **STORY.**

4. **As the all-powerful King, Christ knocks down the proud.**

- a. Mary's joyful response, part 2.
 - i. **Luke 1:50-55.** His mercy is from generation to generation on those who fear him. He has done a mighty deed with his arm; he has scattered the proud because of the thoughts of their hearts; he has toppled the mighty from their thrones and exalted the lowly. He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering his mercy to Abraham and his descendants forever just as he spoke to our ancestors.
 - b. What are you afraid of today?
 - i. Financial outlook?
 - ii. The future of our culture—for your kids? For you?
 - iii. Powerful influences politically, socially, or personally?
 - iv. That evil is prevailing over good?
5. Be reminded this Christmas that we celebrate the birth of a King who is not only humble and compassionate, but all-powerful. He is the eternal king who will win in the end and make a way for all in his kingdom to rest in his victory.
6. You can make a decision to believe and find joy or not to believe and miss the joy of living in the victory of the King..