

Key Takeaways and Discussion Questions



Key Takeaways

1. **God is Never Surprised** - God exists outside of time and has meticulously planned His redemptive work from before creation.
2. **The Unexpected Package** - Jesus came in humility, not as the earthly king people expected, but as exactly what humanity needed—a Savior from sin.
3. **Prophecy Fulfilled** - Over 300 Old Testament prophecies pointed to Jesus, written hundreds of years before His birth, demonstrating God's faithfulness.
4. **Active Waiting** - Waiting in expectation doesn't mean passive inactivity, but faithful prayer and worship while God works.
5. **Eternal Perspective** - Sometimes our prayers are answered beyond our lifetime, requiring faith that extends past what we can see.

Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Peter mentioned that Christmas can easily become "a consumer-driven holiday banquet fest." How do you personally struggle with keeping Jesus at the center during this season?
2. Read Isaiah 7:14 and Isaiah 9:6-7. Why do you think the Jewish people expected a political/military Messiah rather than a humble baby born in a manger?

3. The sermon emphasized that "God is never surprised." How does this truth change the way you view your current circumstances or challenges?

Personal Reflection

4. George Müller prayed for five friends for over 50 years, and one came to Christ only after he died. How does this story challenge your perspective on unanswered prayers?
5. Pastor Peter asked us to think of someone we're waiting to see come to Christ. Without naming names, share how long you've been praying and what makes waiting difficult.
6. The sermon stated: "Waiting in expectation can often feel like you're planting a seed to a tree that you will never live long enough to enjoy the shade of." Have you experienced this in any area of your life? How did you maintain hope?

Going Deeper

7. Read Genesis 3:15 (the "proto-evangelium"). How does seeing God's redemptive plan starting in Genesis 3 impact your understanding of the Christmas story?
8. The sermon mentioned that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9). Can you share a time when God answered a prayer differently than you expected, but it turned out to be exactly what you needed?
9. What does it mean to "wait in expectation" versus just "waiting"? What's the difference in attitude and action?