

OASIS SERMON NOTES

WEEK OF NOV. 28TH 2021

Today begins our Christmas Series entitled "The Mystery of Christmas". When we speak of the mystery of Christmas, it points us to the many amazing things that are revealed to us about God, humanity, and our future in the Christmas story. Revelations are unwrapped of the purposes of God, the heart of God, and of his grand nature toward us. He allows us to uncover His ultimate plan for mankind, His never-ending grace and forgiveness, His heavenly divine peace gifted to us, and inspiring hope for today and tomorrow.

We all love a mystery. But ultimately we want it to be revealed to complete the story. For many today, life is a mystery. Who am I? What is life about? Where is history heading? Confusion is rampant not just about the nature of life in view of purpose, but also of our own identities.

Suicides are up as personal identities are becoming more and more confusing to people in our culture. People are lost in themselves and in the suffering that comes with an unknown future. But the mystery is revealed. Christ Jesus, God's gift to us who, in his first coming, came as a lamb who laid down his life as a sacrifice for sin, but who arose, defeating our enemies of Satan, sin, and death and will come again as King of Kings and Lord of Lords with a Kingdom that will never end.

Let's unpack this mystery from heaven together.

My Story

1. Have you ever received news that shocked you and actually made you look at life from a different point of view? Describe.

Digging Deeper

2. Matthew 2:1-2 describes the mysterious account of the Magi, who had been following a star that led them to Jesus. King Herod wants to kill Jesus as his rule is threatened by the prophecy of a king being born in Bethlehem.

- a. Like a good mystery novel, clues are revealed. What does the clue found in Micah 5:2 and Numbers 24:17 reveal about the nature and character of God?
- b. Like the Magi and others, are you interested and curious about discovering the clues that God has given in His word regarding His Son Jesus and the life He desires for you?
3. Satan always wants to "kill the promise" before it is realized. In this instance, wicked King Herod wants to find and kill Jesus.
 - a. In what ways does the enemy of your soul want to steal, kill, and destroy your faith before it has an opportunity to mature? Distractions from praying or reading God's Word? Other opportunities presented instead of gathering for corporate worship or engagement in community groups? How is he specifically seeking to destroy you?
4. Isaiah 9:2 Prophecy : "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light." It started as a heavenly light but it was just to illuminate an earthly light.
 - a. In what ways this season has God been shining his light upon you, pointing you to His Son, the Light of the world?
5. When we feel alone, we are not lost in the universe. When we feel abandoned or ashamed, the God of the big still comes to this place of his creation to answer the deepest of our needs and struggles. He enters into the realm of humanity to reveal himself.
 - a. What area of life still seems dark to you in which you need some light from heaven to illuminate the situation?
 - b. What "other lights" are you looking to instead of the light of Christ to guide you?

Closing:

Life is a mystery. But God, as the world's best mystery writer has written a story that is unfolding to this day. The mystery revealed is Jesus, the answer to the unfolding drama of sin and suffering that plagues the world to this day. Take time this season to discover or rediscover the mystery of the love of God that is found in a personal relationship with Jesus, and discover the hope for a better tomorrow that is only found in Christ.