

**Jesus and the Mess**  
**Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-23**  
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**If you find life to be messy, recognize...**

- 1. Jesus is with me in the mess.** (Matthew 1:18-23; John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:28)

“It is here, in the thing that happened at the first Christmas, that the profoundest and most unfathomable depths of the Christian revelation lie. ‘The Word became flesh’ (Jn 1:14); God became man; the divine Son became a Jew; the Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, unable to do more than lie and stare and wriggle and make noises, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. And there was no illusion or deception in this: the babyhood of the Son of God was a reality. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as is this truth of the Incarnation.”

J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, InterVarsity Press,  
Downers Grove, IL, 1973, p. 53.

## 2. Jesus wants to be my Savior. (Luke 2:1-12; Matthew 1:21)

“...Our biggest, most abiding, most life-shaping problem exists inside of us and not outside of us. What we actually need to be rescued from is us. What needs to be transformed in our lives is not so much our situation and relationships (although they need transformation as well). What really needs to be transformed are our hearts. What we need are hearts that are clean, that are single-focused in their allegiance to God and his glory. We need grace to transform what we love, what we crave, and what we serve. And what’s the bright and golden promise of the cross of Jesus Christ? It’s a new heart!”

Paul David Tripp, *Whiter Than Snow*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 2008, p. 114.

## 3. Jesus desires to be glorified in my mess. (Luke 2:13-20; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10)

“The ultimate goal of the universe is to show the glory of God. It is the reason for everything that exists, including you. God made it *all* for his glory.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2002, p. 53.

“The very experiences that you have resented or regretted most in life—the ones you’ve wanted to hide and forget—are the experiences God wants to use to help others. They *are* your ministry! For God to use your painful experiences, you must be willing to share them. You have to stop covering them up, and you must honestly admit your faults, failures, and fears. Doing this will probably be your most effective ministry. People are always more encouraged when we share how God’s grace helped us in weakness than when we brag about our strengths.”

Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI, 2002, p. 247.