

What Christmas Teaches Us About Man's Problem - Sin

Matthew 1:21

Introduction

We tend to romanticize during this season

- * Examples from Thanksgiving: Lexus, Folgers, and Jared

However, a quick Google search of "Depression During the Holidays"

- Examples: Spending, depression, personal and family conflict, suicide, and alcohol all seem to be on the rise during the season.

*Land of Missed Expectations– First Christmas & Crock-Pot

The Christmas season seems to merely serve as an amplifier of the human heart

Discontentment

- Unhappy with Income
- Financial Status
- Home
- Possessions
- Families or Lack There Of

Loneliness

- Single
- Divorced
- Widowed

Bitterness

- What Others Have

Emptiness

- People are Missing - this isn't right (infertility, miscarriage, lost loved ones)

Big Idea: The Christmas season amplifies the land of missed expectations and reveals what our hearts truly worship and desire.

We'll revisit this thought but let's have this serve as our backdrop for today's passage; it has incredible implications on our lives.

Context:

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

A few details to note about the context

- This is to be taken in a matter of fact type of way
 - **18** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.*
- Betrothal is a legal commitment, usually one year in advance
- The child came from the Holy Spirit; this isn't Joseph's child with the Spirit upon it
- Under the law, Mary should have been stoned
- Vs. 20 reiterates, this child is from the Spirit
- Vs. 22-23 is speaking of Isaiah 7:14
- Notice Joseph's willingness to obey. We don't know much about him but that one characteristic is plenty.

Content of Mathew 1:21

She will bear a son

- She [Mary]
 - Godly young woman who obeyed the Lord.
 - Most likely 12-13 years old
 - **And** Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” (Luke 1:38)
 - She looked shameful and foolish in obeying God.
 - A Christian should be ok with looking foolish, at least being inconvenienced

Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat

46 And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, **47** and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, **48** for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed [not exalted, same word as SoM]; **49** for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. **50** And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. **51** He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; **52** he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; **53** he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. **54** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, **55** as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.” (Luke 1:46-55)

- Bear, literally, bring forth, this is an actual pregnancy, not mythology
- Son

And you shall call his name Jesus

- Jesus (form of the Hebrew, Joshua – Jehovah “Yahweh” saves)
The OT Jews were in search of a Savior

An infant, yet: He is the image of the invisible God – Colossians 1:15

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.” (Hebrews 1:3)

An infant, yet: The firstborn of all creation – Colossians 1:15 *Existing eternally, but highest of kings on earth

An infant, yet: Resting upon, around, and under His creation

16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

“Heaven’s Son, sleeping under the stars that he made.” (Sally Lloyd-Jones)

An infant, yet: And he is before all things – Colossians 1:17

An infant, yet: And in him all things hold together. –Colossians 1:17

An infant, yet: And he is the head of the body, the church. – Colossians 1:18

An infant, yet: Existent Before and After All

“He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” (Colossians 1:18)

An infant, yet: Fully God

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.” (Colossians 1:19)

An infant, yet: Eternal

“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, **33** and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1:32-33)

For he will save his people from their sins.

- He Will
 - Not, “you will”
- Save His People
 - We need a Savior
 - He is the Savior

“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

- From their Sins
 - How do we know we have sinned?
 - How is sin amplified in this season?
 - The Law and Ghost of Christmas Past

What does this mean in the end?

The land of missed expectations exists because our hearts are set on finding joy, satisfaction, and happiness in anything outside of the one who truly can fill our hearts.

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Big Idea: The Christmas season amplifies that land of missed expectations and reveals what our hearts truly worship and desire.

The incarnation, and the name given to Jesus (Immanuel) is an incredibly comforting hope to long for and celebrate this Christmas season. It means that God is not only high and mighty; it also means that He's near.

Nothing else offers this.