

WHAT CHILD IS THIS WEEK 3 “SAVIOR”

– PATRICK WALTON | 12.17.2017

LUKE 2:8-33

INTRODUCTION—*Sleigh bells, sickness and shingles*

BAD NEWS TURNED GOOD NEWS

Jesus’ rescue mission wasn’t fueled by something awesome inside us—it was fueled by something holy, pure and sacred inside Him. Our need of a Savior wasn’t primarily about something external but something internal

I think that there are two primary reasons why we’ve made Christmas into what it is:

(1) Money—It’s a massive cash cow—we’ve turned generosity (which is good) into a business

(2) Diversion—We’ve created a diversion for the purpose of preserving our sinful flesh—*Gabriel, the ladies with their babies, the star, the shepherds, the angels and the singing* are for the purpose of proclaiming a Savior has been born

Luke 2:10-11 “Then the angel said, to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold I bring good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is a born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

This is that moment, when marginalized, neglected outsiders, hear they have need of a Savior, and that One’s been born to ALL PEOPLE—TO THEM—BEHOLD—SUDDENLY—Zacharias & Elizabeth, Joseph & Mary, an eastern star, and some shepherds

How do we know that we need saving—*because we have law firm in our head, whom we’ve hired on retainer to defend us—24 Advent Chocolates*

Titus 2:11; 3:4 “For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men...But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared...”

This is how good news for bad people appears—SUDDENLY. We don’t earn it, we don’t deserve it, our family doesn’t determine it—this is grace: unmerited favor from God—good tidings of great joy

Moses, Jonah, and Joel saw it;

Exodus 34:6-7; Jonah 4: Joel 2:13 “And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, The Lord the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands...I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm...Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness; and He relents from doing harm...”

HOW TRUSTWORTHY IS THE SAVIOR?

We know Jesus is a trustworthy Savior because when He had everything, He chose to leave it aside for the sake of reconciling people to His Father:

Philippians 2:5-9 *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name."*

- (1) He subjected Himself to earthly laws
- (2) Didn't pull the "God card" all the time
- (3) He suffered like us
- (4) He emptied Himself
- (5) The King of all kings, humbled Himself under earthly kings
- (6) Though He owned everything, He lived off little
- (7) Though worthy of all human worship, He exposed Himself to human rejection

WHY DO WE HAVE NEED OF SAVING?

The idea of a Savior begs the question why? God could've left humanity to languish under the weight of sin and separation—but instead, God chose to send His Son, the Savior to heal the wounds of His people from up close and personal—we need a Savior because of:

- (1) Separation—Our sinful state, apart of Christ leaves us separated from God and alone
- (2) Inability—Our state of separation leaves us unable to live the way that God intended us to live—we live frustrated at the fact that somethings not right in our life and world
- (3) Delusion—Sin blinds us—We think we know ourselves well, but we don't—we make assessment about things, assume were holier than we are—and because we think this are okay, we don't seek help
- (4) Judgement—Sin doesn't just leave us unable and blind, it actually leaves us squarely in the center of God's righteous wrath
- (5) Hopeless—At last, we become a hopeless humanity apart from the Savior—Because sin is an issue of our hearts, on the inside, we can't escape it

The good tidings of great joy are because God hasn't given us what we deserve—He hasn't given us the final blow, but rather caused our salvation to SUDDENLY APPEAR!