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GFC – 12-24-19

We've been in a sermon series entitled **The Cast of Christmas**.
We've learned about the **prophets who prophesied** about the birth of Christ.

We've learned about the **angels who proclaimed** the birth of Christ.
We've learned from the **shepherds how to respond** to the voice of God.
We've learned from the wise men **how to live wisely**.

Of course, God was **sovereignly overseeing** the entire event.
But why did He do it?

Why did Jesus **leave heaven** to come to earth 2000 years ago in the form of a **human being**?

Why did He leave the **throne** where He was surrounded by **angels** to come to a **manger** where He was surrounded by **animals**?

Why did He leave heaven with its **streets of gold** to come to earth with its **dusty streets**?

Why did He leave heaven where there is **no pain** and no tears to become a man of **sorrows** acquainted with grief?

Why did the **King of Kings** and Lord of Lords **become a baby**?

He did it **for us!**

He did it **for you!**

Did He come so we could **get presents**, eat a **lot of food**, get **time off** from school and work?

No – it's **much more** than that!

Today we're going to examine **what the Bible** tells us about **why God came** to earth 2000 years ago.

Matthew 1:18-23 says:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in

a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel - which means, "God with us."

This passage shows us the **two main reasons Jesus came to earth:** Jesus came to **save us** from sin and to be **God with us.**

1- Jesus Came To Save Us From Our Sins

1 Timothy 1:15 says:

This is a true saying, and everyone should believe it: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners...

Whether they know it or not, want it or not, **everyone needs a savior.**

You may say, "I don't need a Savior, I've been Christian all my life."

No you haven't - not according to the Bible.

Maybe **your parents** were Christians, but **God has no grandchildren.**

You have to **come to Him yourself.**

You have to make a choice to **start a relationship** with God.

That **requires repentance** – change of mind and change of heart.

Why? What do we **need to repent of?**

Who? Me? I'm **not so bad**, why do I need saving? **Saved from what?**

One of the most **important truths** in the Bible is that we **all are sinners** who **need saving** from sin and its **destructive results** in our lives.

Paul said in Romans 3:23

Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.

The Bible also says our sins earn us something.

Romans 6:23 says:

For the wages of sin is death...

We all sin and we all die.

But I'm so glad that verse doesn't stop there but goes on to say:

but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

There's nothing we can do to earn eternal life – it's a gift from God.

It's given because Christ was **born to die** for our sins – to pay the price for us.

The **greatest event in history is Easter** – Easter required the **cross** and the cross required **Christmas**.

1 John 4:10 says:

This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

THAT is what Christmas is All About -

God loves us so much that He **sent His Son** on the **greatest rescue mission** in history – to save us from our sins and give us eternal life. **That is why** He was Born, Jesus came to earth to save us!

If our greatest need was **information**, God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need was **technology**, God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need was **money**, God would have sent us a banker.

If our greatest need was **pleasure**, God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.

Not only did Jesus come to earth to die for our sins-

2- Jesus Came To Be God With Us

Jesus came as Immanuel – which means **God with us** – so that we would experience the **presence of God** and see what **He is really like**.

There's a lot of false, crazy, **bizarre ideas** about God out there.

I'm sure you've heard them.

By the way, anytime you hear somebody start a sentence with, “I like to think of God as...” you know they're probably wrong. It's just an opinion. They're just making it up.

What we need is **not what someone likes to think** of God as, but we need to **know the truth** about God.

It's the truth that sets us free. Best guesses aren't good enough.

Over 95% of all Americans believe in God.

The problem is that for many of these people their idea of God is distorted from what the Bible actually teaches.

That shows that you can be **sincere** but **sincerely wrong**.
You **need more** than sincerity. You **need truth**.

There's a lot of things you can **learn about God** just by looking at His **creation**.

But there are some things about God we **only know because of Jesus**.
If He hadn't come we wouldn't know it.

For instance, we wouldn't know that **God is loving** except Jesus told us and showed us.

We wouldn't know that **God forgives** us except Jesus told us.

Fortunately **God wants us to know** what He's like.

So He **came to earth** in human form in Jesus Christ 2000 years ago.

Jesus said in John 18:37

**This is why I was born and came into the world: to tell people the truth.
And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to Me.**

The truth sets us free from **false ideas** about God.

Do you want to get to **know God**? It's real simple.

Get to know **Jesus Christ**. Jesus said in John 14:9

Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father.

Jesus is the **Exact Representation** of the Invisible God.

Jesus is God coming to earth. He's not only with us. He's for us.

You've probably heard the phrase – Jesus is the **reason for the season**.
And that's true.

The season is not about jingle bells.

It's **about Jesus**.

It's about a savior. **That's why we celebrate.**

But really there's a **deeper truth** than that.

Not only is Jesus the reason for the season, **you and I are the reason for the season**.

Jesus came to earth **for our benefit**.

Believe me! If you **didn't need** what Jesus Christ has, God wouldn't have **made the effort**.

But the Bible is the word of God and it says that God is **all about you!**

So – what does the word **of God say** about you?

1- You were created by God

No matter what anyone may have told you, you weren't **an accident.**

God created you!

Psalm 139:13

For you created my inmost being. You knit me together in my mother's womb.

God determined your **ethnicity – gender** - when and where you were born.

God knew exactly what He was doing when He made you.

He made you **“just right.”**

2- God has a plan for your life

You are **uniquely created** by God and there is something He created you to do and when you find that – you will be **great at it!**

I know that because Jeremiah 29:11 says

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

God wants you to have **hope for your future.**

His plans for you are **good.**

They might not seem like it at the time – but **God always works** everything together for **your good.** That's because-

3- You are loved by God unconditionally

You may not feel loved by anyone else – but **God loves you.**

The most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16, says:

God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

That's the **good news.** God loves you! That's why He sent Jesus.

And the good news is that God's love for you is **unconditional** and **unchanging.**

He loves you on your **good days** as much as your **bad days.**

He loves you when you **feel it,** and He loves you when you **don't feel it.**

He loves you when you think you **deserve it,** and He loves you when you think you **don't deserve it.**

The Bible makes it very, very clear – **God loves you** no matter what!

4- God is with you

Remember, Jesus is **Emmanuel**, which means “God with us.”

Many people **feel alone** at Christmas.

Maybe they’ve been abandoned by **parents**. Rejected by **friends**.

Divorced by a **spouse**. Left behind by **others**.

All of us have experienced the **pain of rejection** at some time.

Maybe it was **racial prejudice** or **gender bias** or **religious intolerance**.

But I’m here to bring you **good news** of great joy today: God said in Hebrews 13:5 **I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

God is with you **all the time**.

On the **best day** of your life – God is there.

On the **worst day** of your life – God is there.

No matter if **anyone else** is there – God is there.

God will **never reject you**. God will never abandon you.

Whatever you’re going through right now, **God knows**, God **cares**, God **understands** and He’s going through it **with you**.

You are **not alone!**

God loves you and God is **with you**.

Also, the Bible says

5- God is for you

It’s one thing to know God is **with you**.

It’s quite another thing to know God is **for you**.

He’s **on your side**.

He wants you to **win**. He wants you to **succeed**.

Some people believe that God is **always mad** at them and against them.

But God is **for you**.

Romans 8:31 says:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

No one is **more “for you”** than God.

God says, “I love you, I’m with you, I’m for you. I sent my Son to die for you and **faith in Him** will change your life forever.”

If that’s true – how should we **respond?**

If you will **turn to Him** – He will turn to you.
 He will **forgive you and give you** what you are looking for in life.
 God is **all about you!**
 He **created you and destined you** for greatness!
 He loves you so much that **He sent His Son** so you can be forgiven.
 If you **give your life** to Him today – He will give you a **brand new life!**
 Because God is all about **YOU!!**

He **loves you so much** that He came to earth **2000 years ago** so we can know **what He's like** and **He died on the cross** so that all our sins could **be forgiven** and we can live with Him forever.

Don't **miss the purpose** of Christmas.

It's not about what's under the tree.

It's about the man who hung on the cross.

That's how much He loves you.

It amazes me the people who **celebrate Christmas** after Christmas, but **never accept God's Christmas gift** to them.

The **whole reason** Christmas exists is so you can **have a relationship** with God.

God took the initiative and has **done everything possible** so that you can get to know Him.

Even **coming to earth** Himself.

In History's Greatest Miracle, the King who **sits on a throne** chose **birth in a stable** and **death on a cross.**

And He did it all for you.

All that's left is for **you to accept** God's Christmas gift of forgiveness, salvation and a fresh start in life.

How does that happen?

Galatians 3:26 says:

You're all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

We receive God's gift of salvation by **repenting of sin and believing in Christ.**

Romans 10:9 says:

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Let's pray.