

Sermon #4: God is Speaking

02/07/21

BREAKING THE ICE

- What impacted you most about this week's message?

UNDERSTANDING THE TRUTH

Read the Passage (Luke 2:1-52)

This week, let's examine this familiar passage with fresh eyes. Many parts of this passage are familiar from Christmas stories and messages. Today, you will read it out loud as a group. Ask several people to read or allow everyone to read a couple verses until you get through the whole passage. As you listen to the passage, ponder all the moving parts, people and responses that take place.

1. What struck you as you heard this whole account of Jesus' birth?
2. Where do you see God's Hand in the midst of these historical events?
3. How do you see God's plan of salvation foreshadowed in the manner in which He brings His Son, and our Savior, into this world?
4. What kinds of people does God call in this passage to reveal the uniqueness of Jesus to Mary & Joseph?
5. How does the final story in this chapter about Jesus' family in Jerusalem (41-52) reveal the uniqueness of Jesus and where His (and our) greatest calling resides?
6. How does this story confront the mindset we often have as humans and Americans about what kind of "Savior" we want and how we want to be "saved"?

SEEING JESUS CHRIST

Jesus came into this world in the most humble and unique of ways. Not only were His circumstances humble, but those who spoke about Him were of little or no significance according to society. Yet, behind the scenes, God orchestrated every event and person to make known His plan for His people. Consider how much energy, preparation, celebration and communication we do in modern times to announce a birth. How often can we be disappointed if our celebrated birth isn't acknowledged, attended, or celebrated by someone we desire. Yet, Jesus came without any significant recognition in this world. While the heavenly angels and hosts rejoiced, the world barely noticed His arrival.

- How does Jesus' humble entrance and His quiet confidence in His Father move you to repent of your need for attention to feel value in God's plan?

MAKING IT MATTER

1. What personal attitude about people whom God values and includes needs to adjust?
2. How should the truths we learn from this passage impact how we, as a church, view & seek to minister to our community?
3. How might those far from God in our community see us differently if we found our purpose and value in God and not in the recognition or position of this world?

PRAYING FOR GOD'S POWER

"This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him." 1 John 5:14-15

When we pray according to God's will it engages the power and guidance of God to bring about our transformation. If we apply these things in our own strength, then it is just legalistic obedience. But, when we humbly ask God to change us and empower us according to His will and by His Spirit, it becomes transformational AND it glorifies God.

1. Ask people to share one key, specific application from today's lesson that they want God to bring about in their life. Then take time to pray for each other in these areas.