

The Intimacy of Christmas

Luke 22:19-20

Content

Illus: A few weeks ago, I was at the court house renewing some vehicle tags. As I was leaving, something took place that happens daily in my life and yours. I passed a man outside and we looked at one another, nodded our heads and both said in unison; "How are you doing?" That was all that was said and neither one of us ever broke our stride.

As I walked away, I thought about that moment. Why did we ask one another a question but neither bothered to answer? Why ask how someone is doing and never even slow down to hear their answer? Why did we not stop to respond?

The answers are obvious. Neither of us meant the question. He didn't really want to know how I was doing and I didn't really want to know how he was doing. There was no sincerity in the exchange. It was just a way of acknowledging one another and granting temporary permission to pass through our space.

For many people, Christmas is the same. Christmas comes and goes and the real meaning of Christmas is missed. They see and participate in all the surface stuff that goes along with the celebration, but they miss the real essence of Christmas. So what is the real essence of Christmas? Grace. Personal and intimate Grace.

Grace is undeserved mercy. Grace is when we get what we desire rather than what we deserve.

Grace is when God says, "I'm going to take your problem and make it my problem." He does this through His son Jesus Christ. Sin withers away in the presence of God's Grace.

When sin and grace meet, grace always wins. Grace is a humbling experience that changes one's life forever. Jesus came to dispense God's grace to each one of us personally.

When the Pharisees brought the woman found in adultery before Jesus, they asked, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵The Law of Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" John 8:4-5 NIV

They thought they had Jesus trapped. But they never anticipated GRACE! Jesus said, "If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

He then asked the woman; "Has no one condemned you? ...I do not condemn you either. Go and sin no more."

This is the essence of Christmas. "I do not condemn you." Grace is freedom from the guilt and judgment of sin. Grace is life changing. You cannot experience grace and not be changed.

Grace is like that first breath of air when you have been holding your breath for a long time.

Christmas is so much more than the celebration of the birth of Baby Jesus. Christmas is experiencing intimacy with a Savior through grace.

God sent Jesus to save you from sin and all its hurt, guilt and shame.

God sent Jesus give your life purpose and meaning.

God sent Jesus that you might have an intimate daily relationship with Him.

Today we observe the "The Lord's Supper" to remind ourselves of the full meaning of Christmas; the intimacy of Christmas.

¹⁹And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you. Luke 22:19-20 NIV

Let us worship our Intimate Savior now.