

The Facilitator

Community Groups @ Trinity Presbyterian Church

12/17/17

Text: Luke 2:8-20 (ESV)

Title: Good News for the Lowly

Teacher: Tim Rice

Surrender through Prayer:

Surrender through prayers for Illumination and Transformation, asking that Jesus would meet with you in this time.

Engage with the Sermon

Read the passage together

*Today we looked at Luke 2 and the Angel's message to the shepherds in the fields, bringing news of Jesus' birth. In a world where status, possessions and power are things of pride; God shows his love for the lowly and humble, choosing to announce the greatest moment in history to some of the lowest and least trustworthy people you could imagine. The miracle of Christmas is not only that Jesus came as a baby, but that God himself became the lowest and humblest person to ever live, being born a human and laid in a dirty feeding trough. The one whose life was filled with the riches of heaven, emptied himself of **everything**, and became **nothing**, so that we could come to him with **nothing**, and in him, gain **everything**.*

Reflection Questions:

1. God invites us to empty ourselves so that we could receive Him. Like the story of Naaman from 2 Kings 5 in "The Jesus Storybook Bible": all Naaman needed to be healed was "nothing." It was the one thing he didn't have.
 - **What things do you try to bring to God, hoping He would bless you or love you?**
 - **What things do you expect others to bring to you before you'll love them?**
2. The angel announced to the shepherds that the baby was "a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord." Not just the miracle of a king to save Israel from Rome, and not just the more amazing miracle of the promised Messiah saving God's people, but the Lord, God himself, being born as a baby. Look at the lengths God would go to not only save a nation, but to save You.
 - **What strikes you about the lengths to which God would go to save you?**
3. Imagine a container (or freight train!!) that holds everything that is most dear to you. While it is not wrong to have possessions or to be successful, but it can also be a lot harder to empty out a freight train, than to empty out a paper cup. The invitation of Christmas is the empty that container of everything in it, and receive Jesus, the only thing of true value and worth in this world.
 - **What is God asking you to let go of for the sake of having him?**
 - **How would you describe the difference between hearing about Jesus, and actually experiencing him for yourself? What is life like when you fill your container with him?**

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WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

A.C.T.S.

(Spend time in prayer and worship as a group as you consider Adoring God the Father, Confessing your sin and weakness, giving thanks to Jesus, and asking Holy Spirit to transform you. Use this as a time to talk to God about what's been revealed in your heart during your discussion.)

1. ADORATION (The Father)

Adore and Worship God for His attributes and actions

2. CONFESSION (Me)

Spend time Confessing sin and ways in which you are finite and limited

3. THANKSGIVING (Jesus)

Give thanks to Jesus for his salvation (past, present, future)

4. SUPPLICATION (Holy Spirit)

Ask Holy Spirit to transform you in specific ways

MISSION

Prepare for Gospel Community:

Pray for those who are on your heart, that God would use you to impact them with His gospel message.

Ask yourself, "What can I do to express my love for God and for others in response to this sermon?"