

Faith In the Home: Sermon Notes for Families

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

When God speaks, it gets done. God is most definitely good as His Word. In John 1:1-3 tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made." The Word is both with God, and it is God. Meaning God is His Word, and yet there is a slight separation (we see one God, multiple persons of the Trinity).

Nothing exists without the Word, which makes sense to us because nothing can exist without God. Verse 14 says, "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Meaning that God's Word became one of us. Meaning God who created us became one of us. This is both so simple yet so astounding. It is truly a miracle. It is so unbelievable that it is believable! What a paradox!

Allow me to explain. Joseph was man who was betrothed to marry a young woman named Mary. A betrothal back then was more binding than an engagement today. Therefore, it still required a legal process for divorce even though the marriage had not officially occurred. Joseph sought to quietly divorce Mary because she was pregnant, and he knew he was not the baby's biological father. We do not have any Biblical sources of what it is was like when Joseph first heard the news. Did he hear from Mary that it was the Messiah she was carrying? I would guess so. But one thing is for certain, virgins don't become pregnant. That is impossible. So, Joseph logically did not want to marry an unfaithful woman.

Yet, this is what makes the Bible so real. Joseph had doubts. The disciples on the first Easter had doubts. Just like the disciples needed to see Jesus alive again to believe the resurrection, Joseph needed help to know and to believe what was going on inside Mary's womb. Joseph was visited by an angel from God who told Him to stay with Mary, and name the boy Jesus. Joseph obeyed God. His story helps me believe in Jesus' story. Because let's face it, sometimes the Gospel that is Jesus Christ seems too good to be true.

That's why reading the Bible is so crucial in the life of a Christian. We get to see flawed people who struggle with sin and doubt be restored in their faith. We can have assurance that as God restored them in their doubts and failings, that He will do the

same for us. The Bible is gritty, raw, and real, and so is the salvation that is revealed in Jesus Christ. For all of us who believe, "we are given the right to become children of God."

So how do we teach and model faith to our children?

1. As complex as theology can be, keep it simple for our kids. How can God become a person? God is God. He has the power to do anything. God wanted to become a man (the second person in the trinity), and so He did.

2. As our kids grow up and who knows, go to college, or maybe just like reading, they may start to question the existence of God or the incarnation of Christ (God becoming man) by reason and philosophy. In other words, they may doubt that Jesus is God. I run into this kind of thing all the time. How can God be both infinite and finite (meaning how can be both greater than all creation and then a single small part of it as one man)? We may need to remind our kids as they grow learn the simple truth that if there is a God, He would not and could not fit into our limited human understanding. He is God and greater than our reason. All we know about Him is what He has chosen to reveal. He revealed a lot through His Son, Jesus.

3. Our children will struggle in the world just as we do. We need to have faith that God loves them even more than we do, and that in these struggles He often grows our faith in Him, just as He did for all the followers of Jesus in the Bible. Faith is not a one-time answer. It is a journey.

Have a Merry Christmas!