

Preparing the Way

Christmas
Series



Themes of Advent

- Preparing Us
- Reminding and Recalling
- Celebrating – Moments and Markers
- Responding
 - life lived differently in light of truth



Themes of Advent

John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”



1. Motivated by Love

➤ motivation matters to us

a. So Loved the World...

➤ original creation called good

➤ sin and separation – Gen. 3

➤ God set's about redeeming His creation

➤ Continued care for His creation



1. Motivated by Love

- Psalm 145:8-9 “The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made.”
- Matt. 5:44-45... rain on just and unjust
 - set apart for himself a people
- Deut. 7:6-8
- See also Deut. 10:12-15



1. Motivated by Love

“For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. ⁷ It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, ⁸ but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”



1. Motivated by Love

- Promised a Savior
- Isaiah 7:14-15 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.”
- See also Isaiah 9:6-7



1. Motivated by Love

- Preparing the setting
 - Micah 5:2 “But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.”



2. Making a Way

➤ gave us His Son...

a. Became a Man

➤ John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”



2. Making a Way

- Phil. 2:6-8 “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”



2. Making a Way

b. Loved His Son

- ▶ John 3:35 “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.
³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”



2. Making a Way

c. In Our Place

- Rom. 5:6-8 “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”



3. Providing an Eternal Gift

- not perish but eternal life
- Eph. 2:4-9 “But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness



3. Providing an Eternal Gift

toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”



3. Providing an Eternal Gift

- ▶ 1 John 4:7-12 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.



3. Providing an Eternal Gift

¹¹ Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.”



4. For Whomever Would Believe

- Rom. 10:9-10 “⁹ because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
¹⁰ For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.”
- Jesus Love for His Sheep –
John 10:11-18



So What?

1. Grand Themes Important
 - ▶ story of God's love and action
2. Reminders and Markers significant
 - ▶ how are you marking God's gift
3. Love of God demands response
 - ▶ important truth – whoever must respond
4. Living differently in Light of the truth

