

Please Don't Come For Christmas – Part 1

4 reasons why Jesus shouldn't have come

Celebration Church - November 29, 2009

Matt 2:1-8 (NIV) *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied ... Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."*

Reason #1 - Why Jesus shouldn't come – He wasn't wanted by the ruling authorities

Herod felt threatened by Christ because:

Magi called Jesus King

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews?"

Magi came to worship Jesus, not him

"We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed..."

Others were disturbed

"...disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him... (he asked) where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied..."

Matt 2:16 (NIV) *"When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under..."*

Fear causes us to feel _____, faith causes us to be at

Luke 2:10-12, 14 (NIV) *"...the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger... Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

HOW TO WELCOME CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS

Release your _____

"Do not be afraid..."

I John 4:18-19 (NIV) *"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us."*

See Christ as _____

"I bring you good news of great joy... today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you..."

Ephesians 2:8-9 (NLT) *"God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God.⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it."*

Rest in God's _____ now

"...and on earth peace to men..."

Eph 2:17-18 (NIV) *"He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."*

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Welcome

Question – What’s your most memorable Christmas? What was so special about it and why?

Question – How do you prepare for Christmas?

Worship

Sing or share your favorite Christmas carols. Talk about the significance in them and any part that points to who Christ is or what God has done.

Word

In the message we saw that Herod tried to keep Jesus from coming. He was threatened by the fact that the Magi wanted to worship Jesus and they called Jesus King.

Read the passage below and talk about the similarities between it and Herod. (Note: there’s mixed opinions about who is referred to here but regardless it’s someone who wants to rise up to God’s place)

Isa 14:12-15 (NIV) *“How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.” But you are brought down to the grave, to the depths of the pit.”*

What are the five “I wills” listed here?

The Bible says that pride goes before a fall

Prov 16:18-19 (NIV) *“Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.”*

How does pride show up in people’s lives? (describe it)

Is there any correlation between insecurity and pride? If so what?

Where does this sort of thing rise up in your life?

Phil 4:13 (NIV) *“I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

What can you do to combat this in your life? How does God play a part?

Walk

List the top three things that you fear and pray each day this week about overcoming these fears through the power of God.

Memory Verse

1 John 4:18 (NIV) *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.”*