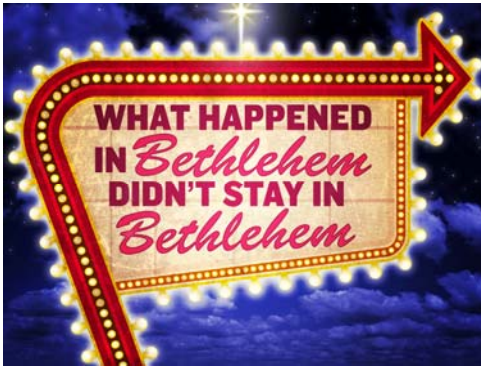


en·gage

to involve oneself or become occupied; participate: *engage in conversation*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2009 "WHAT HAPPENED IN BETHLEHEM DIDN'T STAY IN BETHLEHEM" PART 1 OF 4



SERMON TITLE: "History of Christmas"

MAIN POINT/PASSAGE

▶ "Redeem Christmas as I Redeemed You"/ Genesis 3:15

SERMON REVIEW

▶ What insight, principle, or observation from Sunday did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ▶ What was your favorite Christmas tradition growing up?
- ▶ Have you given much thought about the origins of the traditions we celebrate surrounding Christmas? (I.e. Christmas tree, giving gifts, Santa Claus, Christmas stockings, etc.)
- ▶ What frustrates you the most about Christmas?
- ▶ What brings you the most joy during Christmas?

DIGGING DEEPER

- ▶ Read Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
- ▶ What does this passage mean to you personally?
- ▶ How does this passage tie into the Christmas season?
- ▶ How should this passage help us to redeem Christmas?

APPLICATION

- ▶ What can you do to redeem Christmas for yourself? Your family?
- ▶ Is there an opportunity for you to share the redemption story of Christmas with someone on your Impact List? (If you don't have an Impact List then take the time to make one now. You can read the instructions on the left.)
- ▶ How can your Life Group work together to redeem Christmas?

While growing up, one tradition my family shared was to go caroling at the hospital on Christmas morning. I will never forget the impact this tradition had on me as a young boy. It made me realize that Christmas was more than just opening gifts. Maybe your Life Group could go to a hospital, nursing home, or a homeless shelter and share the redemption story with those who may need it the most. Who knows, it may even open up your own heart to the redeeming story of Christmas! – Pastor Nathan Tatman

Personal Prayers

1. Start your small group time off with prayer.
2. Ask for personal prayer request. In other words, have group members share request about them, not friends or family members.
3. Do the same for praises.

Impact List

Have 2-3 people share about people from their impact list.

1. What is the next step in their friendship with that person?
2. How can your small group pray for them?

Close to God

1. Have 2-3 people share what is happening in their "Close to God" time.
2. How have they grown closer to God?
3. How can your small group pray for them?

