

Christmas Love

Luke 2:1-11

Dec. 24, 2020

Eve asks her husband Adam, “what is the 24th of December?”
“Christmas ... Eve” Hahaha

Kindergarten children sang a song titled as “Christmas Love” at a Christmas Eve celebration. As 12 children sang, each child held up a letter to spell out the title of the song. “C H R I S T M A S L O V E” But a little girl in the middle of the front row got confused and held her letter upside down. She had the “M” in Christmas. Warm sighs and smiles were all over through the congregation as they read the children’s message. Instead of “Christmas Love,” the upside-down “M” changed the message to “Christ Was Love.”

And it’s true. Christ was love. Christmas love is Christ’s love revealed in this world. Christmas love is love that came down to earth, God’s love. This is the Christmas message that makes the whole world be glad and rejoice tonight.

Do you know the difference between **contract and covenant**?

There is a huge difference between the two. A contract says, “if you do something for me, I will do something for you; but if you fail

to live up to your part of the bargain, I no longer have to fulfill my part of the deal.” A covenant is altogether different. It is a commitment to fulfill an oath, even if the other person fails in his or her commitment.

God is not a contract God. God is not an “I will love you as long as you make me happy” kind of God. God is not an “I will love you as long as you do everything right” kind of God. God is not an “I will love you as long as you don’t fail me” kind of God. That is not God we believe and know.

Our God is a covenant God. Our God is a God who says, “I will remain true even if you fail to be true. I will remain faithful even if you are unfaithful. I will continue to love you even if you don’t love me back.” Our God is a for-better-or-for-worse kind of God. And our God is a “I will love you and I will be faithful to you, no matter what.”

So Paul the Apostle wrote, “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

He is right. "Nothing in the world can separate us from the love of God." Nothing. Your mistake, your weakness, your personality, your skin color, your nationality, your sexual orientation, your job, your physical disability or sickness,

Nothing can keep you from God's love. Nothing can keep God from loving you. Yes, God is crazy about you and me.

John the Apostle put this wonderful news this way, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) Paraphrasing this, I say, "Out of God's covenant love, God has come to be one of us and dwell in our midst." God so loved the world God has come to the world in the person of Jesus Christ. God so loved the world God has come to breathe with us and walk with us and live with us and set us free from the bondage of sin and death and give us abundant life. This is the Christmas love.

Someone has called it the greatest story ever told, and he is right. It is. Someone has called it the best news this world could ever receive, and she is right. It certainly is. I say, this is the wonderful gift, God's love. It is free and unconditional. No string attached. It is for you. It is for me. It is for everyone.

God's love through Jesus Christ has come to the world. Who does not want to welcome and receive this precious gift from God?

“Become Like a Child” by Henri Nouwen.

“The great temptation is to use our obvious failures and disappointments in our lives to convince ourselves that we are really not worth being loved. Because what do we have to show for ourselves? But for a person of faith the opposite is true. The many failures may open that place in us where we have nothing to brag about but everything to be loved for. It is becoming a child again, a child who is loved simply for being, simply for smiling, simply for reaching out. This is the way to spiritual maturity: to receive love as a pure, free gift.”

There were two grown men who had long friendships since their childhood. But one day, they argued over something and stopped meeting one another for a year. No emailing, no texting, no talking for a year. One day, one of them went to church and hear the sermon on God’s reconciling love through Christ during the worship time. After returning home, he decided to get back into good relationship with his long-time friend.

He sent a letter and several texting and left several voice messages, but he did not get any response from his friend. One night when a blizzard happened to hit the area, he decided to visit his friend’s house. He drove through the blizzard for a long distance and finally arrived at his friend’s house. He knocked on the door. The friend opened the door. Then, he hastily called him

into the house. It took no more than five minutes for them to regain their friendship.

Christmas love has come to earth. Jesus has come to us this evening like a friend who is standing outside the house and knocking on the door.

I hear Jesus knocking on my door and saying, “Kun Sam, it is me. Can I come in?” Do you hear what I hear?

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.”

May we all be filled with joy now and forever as we welcome and receive Jesus, God’s love into our hearts and lives. In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.