

Morning Worship

December 9, 2018

Hymn # 87 *Joy to the World!* Don/People

Worship Prayer Allan Lane

Welcome and Fellowship Allan/People

Chorus #82 *Emmanuel* Don/People

Missions Moment *Open Heart* Larry & Sally Pepper

Hymn # 89 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Don/People

Hymn # 85 *The First Nowell* Don/People

Offering Prayer Fred Kerns

Offering Music Alya Lou Schottel

Solo Bro. Al Shirley

Children's Worship (Children are dismissed)

Scripture Reading Allan/People

Message Allan Lane

Hymn # 307 *Just As I Am* Dop/People

Closing Chorus #427 *For He Alone Is Worthy* — Dan/Pearce

The Gift of Serenity

A little boy and girl were singing their favorite Christmas carol in church the Sunday before Christmas. The boy concluded "Silent Night" with the words, "Sleep in heavenly beans." "No," his sister corrected, "not beans, peas."

Stressful would be a good term to describe Joseph's situation leading up to what we could call the "first Christmas." He set out to do what any peace-loving individual would do—resolve it privately and discreetly as opposed to publicly in the Jewish courts.

While Joseph pursued a plan to calm the storms around him, God was offering Joseph a plan that would calm the storm within him. His response to his circumstances and God's unsettling plan for his life led him to unwrap God's perfect gift of serenity. By following his example, we see how to unwrap this great gift of God-given peace.

1. Pursue Righteousness . Verse 19

Joseph wanted to do the "right thing." So he set out to do just that. However, as the story unfolds we see the evidence of Joseph's true righteousness as he listens to God's voice and responds accordingly. Had Joseph followed his own path of reason and presumed "righteousness" he would have gone against God's will.

If there's one thing we learn from history and our own experience, following the path of reason and "people pleasing" instead of righteousness only increases our anxieties and that is where real troubles begin.

Ultimately, Joseph's pursuit of righteousness brought him in tune with the heart of God. He found peace in that pursuit and so will we.

Charles Spurgeon said, "In doing that which is just and right, we are like one walking upon a rock, for we have confidence that every step we take is upon solid and safe ground."

2. Express Redemption . Verses 20-21

Look again at verses 20-21. In Joseph's dream, God gave Joseph a glimpse of the divine plan. Because Joseph was a descendant of David and a righteous man, God gave him the unique job of raising the Messiah.

Michael Card sang a song entitled *Joseph's Song*, part of which goes like this:
*How could it be this baby in my arms
Sleeping now, so peacefully.
The Son of God, the angel said.
How could it be?*

*Lord I know He's not my own.
Not of my flesh, not of my bone.
Still Father, let this baby be
The Son of my love.*

*Father show me where I fit into this plan of Yours.
How can a man be father to the Son of God?
Lord, for all my life I've been a simple carpenter.
How can I raise a King?*

That gives you some idea of what must have been going through Joseph's mind. God told Joseph that Mary's son would "save His people from their sins!" In fact, the name "Jesus" is a transliteration of the Hebrew word "yeshua," which means "the Lord is Salvation" or simply, "the Savior." From His name we learn Jesus' mission: "to save His people from their sins!"

Jesus came to earth to redeem us; to save us from the penalty of our sins. To "redeem" means to "buy or purchase." But in order to redeem something, a price must be paid.

Lou Johnson was a 1965 World Series hero for the Los Angeles Dodgers. After his baseball career, he fell on hard times, and made some bad decisions in life...but finally turned his life around.

Unfortunately, drugs and alcohol abuse cost him everything from that magical season, including his uniform, glove, and the bat he used to hit the winning home run in the deciding game, and worst of all, his championship ring.

He tried for 30 years to recover the championship ring he lost to drug dealers in 1971, but he didn't have enough money to get it back. When the Dodgers president, Bob Graziano, learned that Johnson's World Series ring was about to be auctioned on the Internet, he immediately wrote a check for \$3,457.00 and bought the ring for him before bids were even posted. He did for Johnson what the former Dodger outfielder had been unable to do for himself.

In the same way, God has done for us what we were unable to do for ourselves. He paid the price for our sins with the blood of His Son. He bought us back; He redeemed us. What an awesome gift.

Can you imagine Joseph's anticipation, knowing that he would be responsible for the upbringing of the most important child ever born? God was asking Joseph to raise the Savior as his own son. Most people would never accept that kind of challenge.

This leads us to a third lesson we can learn from Joseph.

3. Take Responsibility . Verse 24

Once Joseph knew what God's plan of righteousness was, Joseph took responsibility -- the responsibility of following God's plan, of taking care of Mary, and of raising the Son of God (so much so Jesus was known as "the carpenter's son" -- Matthew 13:55). Many times we may be tempted to flee from responsibility because it demands too much -- it causes too much pressure. However, we will discover it only increases pressure and minimizes our level of serenity because when we shy away from what God may ask of us we never will discover where we fit into God's design. Where there is no sense of purpose, there is no sense of peace.

With Joseph, there's NO hesitation. He understood clearly what God expected of him, and was ready to obey! He would take Mary as his wife and suffer the cutting remarks about a child conceived out of wedlock. He would obey in spite of the fact that this child of divine promise would be born under a cloud of suspicion of adultery. And he called his adopted son "Jesus," exactly as he had been told to do. Joseph believed God and obeyed Him.

Later, God tells Joseph in a dream to take Mary and the infant Jesus to Egypt, and Joseph does so instantly, just as God had instructed literally in the middle of the night. And think about it: in doing so, he left behind an established carpenter's trade and business. He left family and friends—all to obey God and go to Egypt. He did ALL that God commanded Him to do.

The Bible repeatedly pairs faith with obedience and obedience with faith. In other words, they're two sides of the same coin. The Bible is clear that we're saved by faith;

but that our faith is demonstrated by obedience. It's vital to BELIEVE in God, but the proof that your belief is genuine is obedience.

The great 19th century evangelist, D.L. Moody, was conducting a series of meetings in Boston Massachusetts. Leading the congregation in song was Daniel B. Towner. One night a young man responded to the invitation and said, "I'm not quite sure, but I'm going to trust and I'm going to obey."

That statement struck Mr. Towner, who jotted the sentence down, and sent it to J.H. Sammis, a Presbyterian minister. Together they gave birth to the famous hymn, "Trust and Obey." A believer's philosophy can be summed up in these three words: Trust and obey.

4. Exercise Restraint . Verse 25

Even though the marriage had been made legal, the marriage was not consummated until after Jesus was born. No clear reason was given for this except that perhaps it was Joseph's way of stepping back and allowing God to fulfill his perfect plan. This may be hard to believe, but sometimes we have a tendency to run ahead of God. When we do that, we often times run into problems and the flow of serenity in our lives comes to a screeching halt.

Isaiah 26:3 reads "You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, whose thoughts are fixed on you." Keeping our minds, hearts, and bodies focused upon God's plan and refusing to run ahead of God is what will unwrap that wonderful gift of serenity God offers to us.

Conclusion

Every year at Christmas, different thoughts come to our minds. "Sometimes the stress causes visions of sugar plums to dance in our heads." You may drive through your local town or village and see an elaborate nativity display. Perhaps you'll even attend a play, with children reenacting the precious events that brought our Lord and Savior into this world.

However, this Christmas, and throughout the rest of your life, I hope you'll remember the lessons from a quiet carpenter given the greatest honor in history.

Let me wrap up with three questions to draw these lessons down to where we live:

- First, are pursuing righteousness?

If you're truly one of God's kids, you will show in your life the fruits of righteousness that God has put in your heart. Do you, like Joseph, show righteousness in your life by treating others with kindness, mercy, and forgiveness—even when you think you have been mistreated? It may be hard to do, but if you follow Christ as thread follows a needle, your life will be a living demonstration of kindness, mercy, and forgiveness.

- That leads me to my second question: Have you been "redeemed"?

That is, have all your sins been forgiven through an encounter with Jesus Christ? Have you comprehended the sacrifice that He made for you and me on the cross?

If not, please do NOT leave this room without turning to Christ for salvation.

Do not trust your good life or your religion, or baptism or confirmation. The Bible says that these things have ZERO to do with making us right with God or getting us to heaven. We're saved from our sins by believing in His Son; that is by trusting in Him to save you instead of ANYTHING you could do.

Here's how Paul put it in 2 Corinthians 5:21 – "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

That Infant that Joseph cradled in his arms was the perfect, sinless Son of God who became sin for you that you might be made the righteousness of God in Christ. That means He bore your sin on the cross so you can have His perfect righteousness and thus be acceptable before God. It would be a tragic waste to turn from Jesus, who paid for your judgment at such great cost. Accept Him as your Savior today!

- My last question is this: If you ARE saved, are you living a life of obedience?

Are you willing to follow Jesus' commands no matter what the cost? Are you, to the best of your ability, obeying the Lord in every area of your life? If not, resolve today to repent of your disobedience, and obey God, no matter what the cost or sacrifice.

Learn the Lessons of the Quiet Carpenter!

Selecting a Christmas Gift

It is that time of the year when people really start to get serious about selecting Christmas gifts. When selecting Christmas gifts one must first remember what is being celebrated. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The key thrust surrounding the first Christmas was proclamation. The angels proclaimed, "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:11). After the shepherds heard the good news they went into Bethlehem and found Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about the child; all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2: 16-18).

It has been over two thousand years since this historical event and there is just as much need today as there was then to proclaim the birth of Christ. The Christmas celebration is the perfect time to remind or tell people about God's plan of redemption. After all, it is the time of year we have chosen to celebrate the birth of the Savior who came into the world to save people from their sins.

Before you can select the perfect Christmas gift, one that will proclaim the message of the birth of Christ, you must first understand who Jesus is and the purpose of His coming to earth. Jesus is God's perfect gift to the world. He is fully God and fully man. "In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form (Colossians 2:9). He is God in the flesh. The beloved John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning" (John 1: 1,2). "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1: 14). Mark Lowry wrote about the incarnation wonderfully when he wrote these words, "Mary, did you know, that when you kissed your little baby, you kissed the face of God? Mary, did you know?"

Jesus' key purpose for coming into this world is for the redemption of fallen man. The price He paid on the cross meets the need of all mankind, "...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus" (Romans 3: 23, 24).

Therefore perfect Christmas gift that will proclaim the gospel message must meet two qualifications: 1.) It must represent the personality of the giver, and 2.) It meets the need of the recipient.

Even people of this world know the value of a thoughtful gift. When Pastor John Bisagno was working as chaplain to the Houston Oilers, the players gave him an autographed football which every player had signed inscribed with a Scripture from the Bible. Whenever he looks at that football, it reminds him of every player to whom he ministered the Word of God as chaplain.

Christians, among the gifts you give this year, give some that reflect the Christ who lives in you and expresses the need of the recipients to receive Christ as Savior and Lord.

God Bless You!

Bro. Allan ☺

Opportunities For Service

Living out Your Spiritual Commitment . . . and Fulfilling Christ's Divine Plan

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Sunday School.....9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: ? ? ? ?, Ken Nice,

Fred Kerns, Don Sharp

Alternate: ? ? ? ?

*Christmas Tea
at the Lanes
2-4 pm (or whenever)
5517 Ripley Street*

Wednesday, December 12

Prayer Warriors.....10:00 am

Prayer / Bible Study ...6:30 pm

Worship Team 7:30 pm

Saturday, December 15

Church-wide Caroling.....4:00 pm

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Sunday School 9:15 am

Morning Worship.....10:30 am

Nursery: Volunteers as needed

Ushers: John Lewis, Joseph Coats,

Gary Yarbrough, ? ? ? ?

Alternate: Larry McKahan

Monday, December 17

Workers Meeting.....6:30 pm

Wednesday, December 19

Prayer / Bible Study.... 6:30 pm
Worship Team 7:30 pm

Thursday, December 20

Food Pantry Day

Up-Coming Events

December 9 — Christmas Tea at the Lanes

December 12 — Prayer Warriors 10:00 am

December 15 — Church-wide Caroling 4:00 pm

December 17 — Workers Meeting 6:30 pm

GROW Team

Commit to **GROW!** Everyone make a contact! Invite someone to Bible Study and Worship this week. ☺

Sunday Night

We **will not** have Sunday night service tonight. Plan to join us next time we meet.
Don't miss it!

Wednesday Night Prayer and Bible Study

Prayer is such a vital part of everything a church does. Please come as we pray for the direction of our church.

Also, we began a study on **The Case for Christmas** by Lee Strobel. See you this Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

Church-wide Caroling December 15, 4:00 pm

Christmas Tea at the Lanes
5517 Ripley Street

Today, December 9th

**2-4 pm
Make plans to attend!**

**The Christmas Card
Mail Box**

is in the hallway (where the bulletin boards were). If you would like to share cards with your church family, you may place them in the box throughout the month of December. We suggest you use the money you save on postage to contribute to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church goal is \$1,500.00

Temporary Address Change

Doris Richardson

is home for a couple days. If the doctor allows after her appointment on Tuesday, she will be back home to stay.

For the Record-

Attendance: December 2, 2018

Sunday School.....	22
Visitors.....	0
Total.....	22
Contacts Made.....	8
Morning Worship.....	38
Sunday Night.....	N/A
Children's Worship	6
Wednesday Night	8

Financial Record:

Weekly Budget	\$ 2,286.39
Offering Received ...	\$ 4,982.60
Lottie Moon.....	\$ 700.00
Long Family -Oct.	\$ 170.00

Offering Received by Mail:

Eric and Shelly Thompson

December Counting Team:

Don Beavers and Jordan Lane

December Van Driver:

George Burgess

Remember to call 232-3747

before 8 am if you need a ride.

December Member Birthdays:

03 ... Brent Fortune

09 ... Allison Adkinson

11 ... George Ferbert

15 ... George Burgess

16 ... Addison Leichti

16 ... Doris Richardson

19 ... Jessica Kirkpatrick

20 ... Leona Reynolds

20 ... Brenda Burgess

23 ... Joseph Coats

December Anniversaries

Bill and Alva Lou Schottel

December 22, 1962

Prayer Requests ...

Joyce Winfrey and family

Whitesville Baptist Church

Jack and Flo Conard

Shirley Wilson—strength and recovery

Mike Green

Doris Richardson

Sandy and Stanley Wilson

Brendan Conner—Swymeler's Grandson

Ruth Anne Bush—healing

Sharri Duty—Jerry Garcia

Linda Huff—cancer treatment

Jim Winans—recuperation

June Fritchle—recovery

Marcia and Don Hart—blessings

Arlette Duty—strength

Peggy & Gary Fewins—Peggy's health

Donna and Bill Dunn—health

Karissa and Matt Long and family

Stephanie & Jason Terpack

Rosella Davis—Flo Conard's sister

Mary Sharp's brother-in-law Jim

Bill Clinton—Don and Mae's son

Lisa Bowers—Jack and Flo's daughter

Zella Davis —Doris Richardson's sister

The Waters Family Betty Campbell

George Ferbert Kevin Duty

Nellie Reynolds Ann Riddle

Don Beavers Tim Izer

Kathryn Beavers Keon McKahan
Jozy Winans Kenny Duty
Pat Means Buddy Means
Bill & Juanita Debbie Sands
Pat Puckett Curtis Conard
Brenda Burgess Roscoe Lane
Carolyn Houts

Nickolay Nazaruk, Peski 2 Church
David and Deborah Grace

Today's Prayer Requests ...

Our Nation and our Leaders ...

Five More New Families...
