

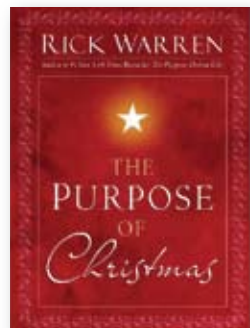
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think that He came all the way from heaven to some wretched eastern stable, and what is more to think that He came for me. How men beautify the cross and the crib, as if to hide the fact that at birth we resigned Him to the stench of beasts and at death exposed Him to the shame of rogues. "I returned to the warm, clean room which I enjoyed even as a prisoner, bowed to thankfulness and worship."

Christmas Discussion Questions

- 1) What amazes you the most about how Jesus came to earth? Why does it touch your heart so deeply? Now let's think about all the promises Jesus fulfilled by coming, living and dying the way He did. Read through the ones in your sermon notes. What does that say about Christ as a promise keeper to you? What promises are you counting on Him for now?
- 2) Jesus came supernaturally through being birthed by a virgin. Do you believe that? How do you explain that to unbelievers? How do you think Mary and Joseph felt about being chosen for this miracle? How did Jesus become a human being, even a baby? How do you explain that to others?
- 3) Jesus came at the perfect time and fulfilled perfectly the purpose for His coming. Have you experienced God's perfect timing in your life so you can fulfill your purposes? How has God stretched your faith in His timing?
- 4) Jesus could have easily come in righteous judgement but chose to come in humble love. What does that say to you about how He feels about you? Who do you best respond to -- loving people or judgemental people? How do you come to people? Take time to worship Jesus for how He came.

Great Christmas Book!
The Purpose of Christmas by
Pastor Rick Warren. Read it as a
family and give it away to those
who don't know Jesus!



SERMON NOTES: WEEK TWO

JESUS is Christmas

A Christmas Story

Britisher Geoffrey T. Bull, missionary to Tibet, was cold, exhausted and hungry. He has been seized by Communists following their takeover of China in 1949, and his future was bleak. His captors drove him day and night across frozen mountains until he despaired of life. Late one afternoon, he staggered into a small village where he was given an upstairs room, swept clean and warmed by a small charcoal brazier. After a meager supper, he was sent downstairs to feed the horses. It was very dark and very cold. He clambered down the notched tree trunk to find himself in pitch blackness. His boots squished in the manure and straw on the floor. The fetid smell of animals was nauseating. The horses sighed wearily, tails drooping, yet the missionary expected to be kicked any moment. Geoffrey, cold, weary, lonely and ill, began to feel sorry for himself.

"Then as I continued to grope my way in the darkness," he later wrote, "it suddenly flashed into my mind. What's today? I thought for a moment. In traveling, the days had become a little muddled in my mind. Suddenly it came to me. 'It's Christmas Eve' I stood suddenly still in that Oriental manger. To think that my Savior was born in a place like this. To

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Adoring Jesus for How He Came

December 13/14, 2008

Q. What truly makes Christmas?

A. Jesus

Jesus is Christmas and adoring Him fills us in what can be a very draining season. Last week we adored Jesus for who He is and the power of His name. **Isaiah 9:6** All of the best things in life come from calling on His name. **Acts 4:12**

Adoring Jesus for How He Came

1) Jesus came in fulfillment of all of God's promises.

Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:20-24, Micah 5:2 - But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.

Matthew 2:1 - Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem... **Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:14, Isaiah 61:1, Luke 4:16-21**

Jesus is still fulfilling God's promises today in those who call on His name to do so.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" **1 Kings 8:56.**

2) Jesus came supernaturally.

Luke 1:30-37

Jesus is still doing supernatural things today for those who believe for them and take the steps of faith He inspires.

John 14:12 - "I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.

3) Jesus came with amazing humility.

Philippians 2:6-8 - Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

John 1:14 - So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

He still brings His humble yet triumphant leadership into those who humbly receive and follow Him.

Matthew 5:3 - "God blesses those who are poor and realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. **2 Corinthians 2:14**

4) Jesus came at the perfect time in human history and had time to fulfill everything God wanted Him to do.

Galatians 4:4 - But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. **John 17:4**

Jesus' timing in our lives is still perfect even when it stretches us, because He knows best how to fulfill God's purposes in our lives.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 - For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die. A time to plant and a time to harvest.

Psalms 31:15 - My times are in Your hand

5) Jesus came in love not in rightful judgment.

John 3:16-17 - "For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.

Jesus still loves to love us not judge us even today and convicts us of our sin so we can have His best and live the best life for Him.

John 8: 10-11 - Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" "No, Lord," she said. And Jesus said, "Neither do I. Go and sin no more."

Romans 8:1 - So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

Isn't Jesus worthy of adoration for how He came?

Isn't Jesus worthy of adoration for how He continues to come in our lives? Adoring Jesus for how He comes makes Christmas too!