

Minister's Musing

Some ways the Christmas story gives us hope

I find it amazing that God's Son was actually born into a real human family. Mary, a teenager, Joseph a humble man. It is an event that is acknowledged to have happened by historians who were not writers of any of the Gospels. It is not a Christmas card, 'everything is fine', kind of event. It is real and it is kind of rugged. There are some things about this remarkable event that fills my heart with hope:

1. God uses ordinary people. Jesus was born to an unassuming small-town girl and a carpenter. Neither Mary nor Joseph was great in the world's eyes, but they were obedient to their Lord. God uses everyday, faithful followers like you and me to bring about the reign of Christ.
2. God works through unexpected circumstances. People were expecting a mighty warrior or a conquering king, but Jesus came as a baby. He didn't sit on a throne but lay in a feeding trough. God's answer to people's longing wasn't what they imagined, but it was far better. It was salvation through God's own Son.
3. God cares for all humanity. The angels announced Jesus' birth to shepherds—some of the most humble members of Jewish society. Then, a star appeared to Gentile astrologists, scientists. Jesus came for His chosen people, but also for the nations, including us. In Christ, we are adopted as God's sons and daughters called to take the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth.
4. God knows what it's like. Because Jesus came to earth as a man, He experienced the emotions and struggles we face. We can be confident that when we take our sorrows to Him, He understands and helps us in our weakness. He is Emmanuel, God with us.

The best news is that Christmas isn't all there is; it's a step on the journey to the cross. The Baby in Bethlehem grew up and taught about a better way for humanity. A way to live with God in eternity. We are called on to share the hope of Christmas with those who do not yet know the One who is our Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

(Adapted from an article by Chuck Lawless)

Blessings

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