

Adventus
Week 2
12-7-25
Luke 2:1-20

The Gift of Peace

I. Emmanuel, God With Us (Luke 2:1-7)

- A. The census is taken
 - 1. David's line
- B. No room at the Inn
 - 1. "Katalyma"
 - 2. The crowded city
- C. Wait, Jesus was born where?
 - 1. Emmanuel, God WITH us
 - 2. NOT far from us!

II. Peace on Earth (Luke 2:8-16)

- A. Angels appear
 - 1. An encounter with the divine
 - 2. A Christmas gift, PEACE on earth
- B. The shepherds response
 - 1. An invitation to intimacy
 - 2. They GO! (This is where we can go wrong...)
 - 3. Worshipping up close vs far away
 - 4. Obedience (Shema) = Hearing AND Obeying

III. A Conflicted Life

- A. Peace: freedom from disturbance
 - 1. A state or period in which there is no war or war has ended (Duet 20:10)
 - 2. "There is no greater feeling in the world than relief"
- B. We pursue Peace, but in ALL the wrong places.
 - 1. Vacation, distraction, pleasure... everywhere BUT God!
- C. Conflict: (John 16:33)
 - 1. Types of Conflict
 - Man vs Man
 - Man vs Nature
 - Man vs Self
 - 2. All conflict comes from as a result of our conflict with God. (Adam and Eve, Gen 2:6-14)

IV. Jesus

- A. Emmanuel:
 - 1. God with us (Luke 2:3-14) Glory to God and Peace
 - 2. Jesus comes with terms of Peace

- B. High Priest: (Hebrews 4:14-16)
 - 1. Sympathy vs. Empathy
 - 2. Jesus as High Priest walked where those he served walked.
 - Tempted with our very struggles, yet without sin
 - He knows where you are and your struggles
- C. Prince of Peace:
 - 1. Jesus helps our relationships (John 14:27)
 - 2. Jesus is lord of our troubled hearts (Phil 4:6-7)
 - 3. Jesus speaks to nature (Mark 4:37)

V. Jesus' heart toward us

- A. He gets us!
 - 1. His Love is unprocessed
 - 2. His compassion for you is full
 - 3. His joy for you is boundless (always in a good mood)
 - Sees us at our lowest and still accepts us
 - 4. His forgiveness for you is ALL encompassing
 - He suspends judgement

VI. SO... let us DRAW NEAR! (Luke 2:10, 14)

- A. Christmas is the gift of peace and an invitation to intimacy
 - 1. Jesus comes with terms of peace to avoid the war
- B. The shepherds saw, heard, and responded! (Luke 2:15-17, 20)
- C. We testify
 - 1. Tell the story of what the Lord has done
 - 2. A new way to "share our faith"
- D. A daily rhythm of entering in with wonder (Luke 2:17-19)

LifeGroup Questions:

1. What things or activities do you run to to try and feel peace? Does it bring real peace or is it just a distraction. Is all distraction bad? How can tell the difference between distraction and real peace!?
2. Of the different kinds of conflict (man vs man, man vs nature, man vs self) which do you struggle with the most? What's the relationship between peace and trust?
3. Jesus is Emmanuel God with us, our High Priest who sympathizes with our struggles, and our Prince of Peace who can calm the storms in all areas of life. Which one of these do you feel like you experience the most and which would you like to experience more?
4. How can we keep ourselves in a rhythm of entering His rest, experiencing His peace, but then being in the world as well. How can a discipline of seeking His peace in our own lives testify to others and help us to "share our faith" in a way that is more than just words?