

Sunday, December 23, 2018 - "Who Is This Baby" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Colossians 1:15-22, Hebrews 1:3, Romans 5

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- Colossians 1:15-22...We have to understand context or we can make wrong applications
 - We only have one side of a letter/conversation
 - A letter to Jesus followers who were practicing syncretism (Jesus + other things)
 - We all add to the gospel at some point. This letter was to help them know it is all about Jesus
- Who is the baby of Christmas?
- v15-20 were likely a hymn or creed (something know to the people, to help them remember)
- What we believe dictates how we live
 - Our "creed"
 - What we think about the baby of Christmas can dictates what we believe about God
- We learn who God is from Jesus (an exact imprint of His nature - Hebrews 1:3a)
- What does the baby tell us about God (trying to describe the indescribable)
 - God's Relentless Pursuit - the baby shows that God will go to any lengths to rescue us (Romans 5)
 - Radical Generosity - a willingness to help or support, especially more than is usual or expected (sacrifice)
 - Unconditional love - We can't do anything or not do something to make God love us more
- Our journey towards mental and spiritual health is about understanding how much God really loves us
- 7 ALL statements in Colossians 1 (the profound mystery: this is who Jesus is and fully was when he was a baby)
 - 1) Firstborn of ALL creation: Positional Authority / He rules over all creation
 - 2) Created ALL things: Genesis account / Beauty out of nothing (at creation and at Jesus' birth)
 - 3) ALL things created for him: Nothing out of his control or rule / nothing surprises Him
 - 4) Before ALL things: Baby Jesus was and is and is to come / Eternal / Beyond time and space
 - 5) ALL things hold together: Cosmos not chaos / every cell / gravity, moon, stars, oxygen
 - 6) ALL the fullness of God pleased to dwell: Perfect imprint of the image of God
 - 7) Reconcile to himself ALL things: Everything back in it's proper place / started with baby Jesus
- The baby of Christmas is ALL of those things → let it inspire wonder and imagination in us

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. When was a time that you added, whether consciously or subconsciously, to the gospel of Jesus?
2. What comes to mind when you think about Jesus as a baby and Jesus as our savior as the same person?
3. Which of the 7 ALL statements inspires you the most?
4. Which of the 7 ALL statements is God asking you to grow in believing?
5. How have you experienced God's relentless pursuit, Radical Generosity, and Unconditional Love in your own life?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Luke 1 Tues: Luke 2 Wed: Luke 3 Thurs: Luke 4 Fri: Luke 5

Songs from the weekend: [O Come All Ye Faithful/We Adore You - *Paul Baloche*] - [*Angels We Have Heard On High* - Chris Tomlin] - [*Joy to the World - Hillsong Worship*] - [*Hark - Hillsong Worship*] - [There's No Other Name Like Yours Jesus - *Bethel Music*]