

## Love came Down

### Preamble

- There is much busyness, partying, food, entertainment, shopping
  - More people in shops
  - More programs on TV
  - More deals online
- They say that in this season most people will over indulge: spend too much, eat too much and demand too much
- I want to take a few moments this morning and remind us of what the season is all about

CS Lewis said:

"At Christmas we remember the central event in the history of the whole earth, the very thing the whole story is about."

### Introduction - The Christmas story

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. [5] He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. [6] While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, [7] and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. [8] And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. [9] An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. [10] But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. [11] Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. [12] This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." [13] Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, [14] "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." **Luke 2:4-14**

- Do not be afraid
- I bring you good news
- That will cause great joy for all people
- A Saviour has been born
- He is the Messiah, the Lord
- You will find a baby...
- Glory to God in the Highest
- On earth peace to those..
- On whom is favour rests

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. **John 3.16,17**

### **Love Came Down** - God became Flesh

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; [7] rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death---even death on a cross! **Philippians 2:6-8**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [14] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. **John 1:1,14**

- The one outside of time stepped into time
- The limitless one confined himself to a human body
  - A body that can tire, will need sleep, will need food
  - A body that feels cold and pain
- He became one of us so that he could rescue all of us

### **Love laid down his life**

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **Romans 5.8**

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life —only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.” **John 10.17,18**

“Therefore, my friends, I want you to know that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. Through him everyone who believes is set free from every sin, a justification you were not able to obtain under the law of Moses. **Acts 13.38,39**

### **God is On Your Side**

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us---who was raised to life for us!---is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, **Romans 8:31-35 MSG**

As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.” [37] No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. [38] For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, [39]

neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:36-39**

### **Love demands a response**

And this is his command: to believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and to love one another as he commanded us. **1 John 3.23**

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. [2] This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. [3] In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, [4] for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. **1 John 5:1-4**

*Jesus gave his life as a sacrifice for your sins, and then he was raised from the dead. Jesus is alive. Forgiveness is proclaimed to you. This is freedom held out for you. Receive him, believe him, embrace him. Jonathan Parnell*

### **Conclusion**

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. **John 1.12**

- Do you believe?
- Will you believe?

### **Gold Miner and Slave Story**

In 1850 an Englishman went to California and made his fortunes working in the gold mines, he wanted to then go back home to England so he came overland to Kansas City and ended up in New Orleans, where he was then going to go to New York and back to England.

As a tourist in New Orleans he did what most tourists did and then headed down to the slave market as in the 1850's slaves were still being sold. And as he went there he saw lots of men all gathered there. He heard two men talking about what they were going to do with the woman they were about to bid for. The Englishman was disgusted by what he had heard, and so the bidding began, the prices were getting higher and higher and the Englishmen couldn't stand it, so he beckons the auctioneer and he says a figure that was double the last bid the highest price that they had ever had on that market before. The Auctioneer then turns to him and says "do you have the money?" and the Englishman replies "yes". The bill of sale was made out. So the Englishman then goes over to the block to take the woman that he had purchased, as she came down one step and stood just about level with his eyes, she spat in his face and hissed through her clenched teeth says "I hate you!", he says nothing and with the back of his hand wipes the spit off his face, takes her by the hand he walked with her down the street until he came to a little office building, she couldn't read, she didn't know what it was.

He went to the desk and began speaking, the man who was sitting behind the desk began to protest but the English man said, "I insist it's the law, I insist!" and finally he came back paid some money and got a paper, he then walked over to the woman who was like a beast ready to spring on him, he handed her the papers and said "Here, here are your manumission papers, you are free". The woman tells him that she hates him again and the Englishman replies "didn't you understand what I said, I said here are your manumission papers, you are free!" She replies "you paid twice as much for me than anyone had ever paid for a slave in that market, I don't believe you". He replies "yes these are your manumission papers" and puts the papers in her hands.

The woman shocked says "Mister does this mean you brought me to set me free?". He said yes that is why I bought you, to set you free. Tears came up into her eyes, her face softens, she then slipped down to her hands and knees and put her hands around the miners boot, and through her tears sobbed 'you set me free you've brought me to set me free, you paid more than anyone ever had just to set me free' she then looks up at the miner and says "oh sir all I want to be in life is your slave, you brought me to set me free"

The Lord Jesus Christ bought you to set you free...

Love came down so you may be free