



Why We Need Christmas

Isaiah 61:1-3

December 25, 2022

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

Christmas is the holiday the church established to minister to God's people and the broken world.

The Text: Isaiah 61:1-3

¹The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to grant to those who mourn in Zion—to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.

Luke 4:20-21: ²⁰And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

1) We need Christmas because our world is filled with suffering and brokenness.

2) We need Christmas because our lives are wounded and filled with mourning.

3) We need Christmas because our souls are enslaved to sin and death.

Joy to the World – third stanza:

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders, of His love

Response

Joy to the world, for it, is Christmas morning!

Sunday Text Questions

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- 1) Starter Question: How can Christians make Christmas about Jesus amidst all the other seasonal festivities?
- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.
- 3) What does this person “anointed” by the Lord reveal about his mission to the world?
- 4) How many aspects of his mission are listed (hint: look for statements that begin with “to” – e.g., to bring..., to bind..., to proclaim..., to comfort..., etc.)?
- 5) How does the world need the ministry of God’s Anointed One depicted in these verses?
- 6) How do you personally need the ministry of God’s Anointed One depicted in these verses?
- 7) Read Luke 4:16-21. How does Jesus claim to be the Anointed One promised in Isaiah 61:1-3?
- 8) How are we, the disciples of Jesus in the New Covenant, already participating in the blessings described in Isaiah 61:1-3?
- 9) How are the blessings of Isaiah 61:1-1 “already-but-not-yet,” already starting to become realized in our lives because of Jesus but not in a full and final way until the new creation?
- 10) In light of Isaiah 61, how might Christmas serve as an annual means of grace to Christians in the midst of all the brokenness, suffering, injustice, and mourning in the world?

Further study this week: Reflect and meditate on the Christmas story in Luke and Matthew: Luke 1:1-25 (Mon); Luke 1:26-56 (Tues); Luke 1:57-2:21 (Wed); Matthew 1 (Thurs); Matthew 2 (Fri).