

Lake Forest Church Sermon Discussions

Sermon Series: Down to Earth

December 6, 2009

Week 1: Incarnation

As a group, tell each other about your most "over the top" Christmas that you can remember. Then, tell about your most "down to earth" Christmas. What stood out about each?

Read Luke 2:1-7

Mike gave a lot of "historical" context to this story this morning. His point was that Christianity is embedded within historical facts. Were there any elements to the historical that you saw in a different light? Which of these elements continue to amaze you?

Read John 1:1, 14

The word "incarnation" means that God took on flesh and became one of us. Do you believe that God truly became man? Why or why not? What is hard to believe or understand about this?

The incarnation of Jesus stirs all kinds of misunderstandings. Mike discussed each of these this morning. Discuss each misunderstanding and why they are "not" true of Jesus' "incarnation". Discuss why it's important that they are "not" true:

- *A person became God--Jesus was man and became God.
- *Jesus came into existence at his birth--he did not exist before his virgin birth.
- *The incarnation simply borrows the idea from pagan religions.
- *Jesus ceased to be God when he was born.
- *Jesus wasn't really God and man--he was more one or the other.
- *God had intimate relations with Mary and therefore she wasn't truly a virgin.
- *Incarnation is just a secondary issue--not all that important.

For some, this morning's sermon may have been "boringly" theological. After discussion around each of these areas, how have you been challenged to consider the power of the fact that God, the creator of the universe, actually became fully man?

What does this mean for us?

Read Heb 4:15-16. **Jesus is like us.** In what ways could you keep this focus in front of you as you prepare for the greatest birth in history?

Read Heb 7:26-27. **Jesus is unlike us.** In what ways could you keep this focus in front of you as you prepare for the greatest birth in history?

Read 1 Tim 2:5. **Jesus came to make us like him.** In what ways could you keep this focus in front of you as you prepare for the greatest birth in history?

As a group, spend some time praying and thanking God for entering into our lives. Thank him for coming down to earth. Ask him to help you, as you prepare for his birthday, to do so in a "down to earth" manner.