

Father, this morning we are in Your house and You are in our midst. We stand by faith, for it is written – “If two or three of you gather in My name, I’ll be in your midst”; You are here and we worship You. We magnify You, we come as sinners to our Savior, as children to our Father, as servants to our Lord and our Master. We pray Lord, touch us, in Your presence there is mercy, in Your presence there is grace, and we need both, I need both, all of us need both. Touch our ears, we need hearing ears, touch our eyes, we need seeing eyes, sanctify our lips, hearts that believes, mouth that confesses what we believe. This morning, speak to us, once again we sit at Your feet Lord, in Jesus name we pray Amen, Amen.

The title of today’s message is, ‘Shall we get Christ back into Christmas?’ If we have to get Christ back into Christmas, one – we have to go to the Word and two – we have to go to the first Christmas. Unlike every other book in the world, every other book in the world, there’s only one book that is truth, entirely truth from *Genesis 1:1* to *Revelation 22:21*; absolutely, entirely truth, this Book. Everything else is sheer fiction or a combination of facts and fiction or even if it is science, suppositions. This which you hold in your hand, if you chose to bring your Bible or if you have an app in your phone, it is truth; absolutely truth. God is truth, His Son is truth, His Spirit is truth, His Word is truth, the Church is called to be the pillar and the foundation of the truth. So when we come to the birth of His Son, the greatest event that ever took place in human history. Christ was born, is history, literally. He split history into two, before and after. Christ is born is history. Christ born in me is the actual Christmas, that is salvation, that is not history, that is salvation. We had during worship and we had during the awesome offertory, we read from Isaiah 9, *unto us a Child is born*, ‘born’ but that ‘is’, we need to read Scripture very carefully, the grammar God uses is not always the same.

By His stripes’ He will say through Isaiah, we are healed. Peter will say, ‘By His stripes we were healed.’ But when it comes to the birth of His Son, He says, “He is born.” Even today, He will be born in many hearts around the world because He is always birthing Himself in the lives and the hearts of His people. Unto us a Child is, not will be, it was grammatically correct to write six hundred years before He was born, He will be born and looking back in history it should be written He was born. That’s not the truth, He is born, He is born. We are talking about a living Savior so if we go back to the Word of God, we can separate truth from fiction because Babylon is always trying to encroach and take over. We go back to the Bible, we go back to the scriptures and we need to find the real Christ and get Him back into Christmas. We have a day, for me personally Jesus was never born on December the 25th. He was not, He could not be if you look at the Scripture. But we have been given a day, we celebrate, we proclaim because December 25th is one of the biggest occult days in the calendar. It’s the Winter Solstice, it’s one of the biggest occult days. It’s when the Roman Empire turned Christian, they turned the festival of one of their gods, and put it together and they made it into Christmas day.

But we have a holiday and today is Sunday and He was born. Which day? We do not know but He was born, God has given us this day. We will celebrate. But there is a real Jesus and a false Jesus, I didn’t say it, God said it. And He said it through His Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 11:3-4:

2 Corinthians 11:3-4

³But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. ⁴For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!

So another Jesus can be preached, which is not there in the scriptures. If I preach another Jesus and you receive him, you receive another spirit which is not the Holy Spirit or a different Gospel which you have accepted. So there can be a different gospel, a different gospel, a different Jesus and a different spirit. We need to be very sure, what we preach and what we hear, what we celebrate is the Christ of the Bible. It is another one that is preached and that is celebrated. Even in the city, from the airport to every mall, you don’t see Christ, you see Santa Claus, you see red costumes and you see red caps to the point, today, He’s been substituted as a father god cause he’s called Father Christmas! I didn’t notice, somewhere outside when we came in, I think there is a little Santa there; when I came in, I

was sitting at the back and I was talking to little Zoe, first question she asked me is, "How did Santa get into our church?"

We need to go back to the simplicity of Christ because Babylon is taking over, and they will take anything and take over and completely change the nature of what is truth. Last week I was talking about the Deceiver, he will come as Christ. That's why God wants us to be sober, wants us to be alert. He, the devil, will try to take over anything right in the beginning, in the Garden of Eden by mixing truth and falsehood and this is the season when so much falsehood is sold. So we need to go to the truth and stick to the truth and believe in the truth, the truth about Christ, the simplicity of Christ. What happened over two thousand years ago? We have camera men over here, in your mental, in your mind, in your heart let us ban the camera back into history, two thousand years back. What happened then, what has changed, ask a few hard questions. It is good to ask questions. God does not get angry with questions if you ask Him, unless You are questioning His integrity. He has no issues with questions cause questions in the Bible begin with God does not begin with man, of course the first question was brought by the deceiver, "Did God really say?" but after that the questions are asked by God, "Adam where are you? Who told you? What have you done?" The first three questions He asks in the garden, "Where are you?"

He is asking us this question, ok we are celebrating Christmas but where are you? What you are celebrating, who told you? What you are doing or done? Does it agree? What have you done? Did you get mad? Pastor is a joy killer! So He comes and asks outside the Garden, "Why are you angry? Why has your countenance fallen?" If you do right, will you not be accepted? So do not be deceived, ask a few hard questions this morning. Oh little town of Bethlehem, nobody even gave a thought of Bethlehem. 2000 pulse years ago, it was just a village, small little village, nobody cared about Bethlehem and there was a young couple there, heavily pregnant lady properly in her late teens. They got married very young those days. Heavily pregnant. God, in His sovereignty, touched the heart of the emperor, sitting in Rome and told him, "Have a census in your empire," so the census started, the entire purpose of moving millions upon millions all around the roman empire was that every citizen should go to their native town, so that His Son would be born according to His prophecy, that was given 500, 600 years earlier. Understand how God's sovereignty works, He can make millions of people move around just for one Scripture to come true.

There is a young couple who traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem because they were from that town and she was heavily pregnant and they reached.

Luke 2:7

⁷and she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in a swaddling cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

There was no room for him in the Inn, it is a panic kind of situation. I don't know how many of us can really, really, relate to this. I grew up in the Himalayas in the mountains, my parents were educators as you want to call them. My dad was a principal, mom was a teacher, and every year for vacation. It was a winter vacation. Those days in the 1900s; late 1960s- 1970s we came down from the mountain, came down to the border to the town then to get a train to India. It was a horrible journey by bus. Those were the days where there's no medicine called avomin. You know what avomin is so that you won't vomit. This is coming down from 20,000 feet down, around 32 hair pin bends. So all you did was you throw up to your right, to your left, to your front, all over. It was a gruesome journey. Coming down old buses, you know the bus looks like a jeep, you only have seen in movies, right? That's the kind of buses we travelled. So by the time you reached the border town, and again inside the country, it was late evening night, I can still remember it is vacation. Suddenly the town is full because people all are traveling for vacation, the town is full and Dad would tell us, "Stay in the station." Mom and all of us little ones sitting there, do you know what he was looking for? A room, a room, ten minutes, twenty minutes, thirty minutes, forty five minutes, one hour. You know what that man was doing? Hotel after, hotel after, each hotel, full, full, full, full. And finally we see him coming and he would say, "Got a room." Flash back 2000 plus years, young man with heavily pregnant wife, going around, "No room," "No room." The innkeepers was probably excited. Do you know why? The best day for business. The inn is full, packed. "No room, no time, you're bad for business." The first one to reject the Savior the day He was born was the innkeeper. Business was good that day, there was no room for the Savior. Now let's fast forward from the past into the future.

Revelation 3:20

²⁰behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

Who is He speaking to? The Church. "Business is good, we are rich, we have no need for anything." But there is no room for the Savior still. No room for the Saviour. 52 Sundays, the year is almost over. Let's ask ourselves a very hard question - How much room and how much time, did we make for the Savior in our own lives? For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Child is given. Business was as usual. Did we have time? Did we have room? Laodicea had no time. They had no time and they had no room. And here is a Savior, knocking at the hearts, the doors of the Church and saying, "Will you let Me in?" The first hard question we ask ourselves, because our God asks questions. He begins with questions. He ends the Old Testament with questions. If I am then where is, if I am then where is? If I am your Savior then did you have a room for me? I'm asking myself, you ask yourself.

The Child is born, wrapped up in swaddling clothes. Which is a history for some people who had no idea of swaddling clothes may look like. Right? Have no idea right? When our babies are born or to be born, one of the standard requests to the mommies, the grandmother of the baby, our own mommies, "Mommy, keep your old cotton sarees." They used to wash those sarees and take all the starch out. Cotton sarees, not silk, because the baby needed the softest and all the nappies everything was made with the cotton sarees. Now of course, these days, we order from Amazon, dippers. Mary of course, couldn't order dippers. So she wrapped Him with swaddling clothes, put Him in a manger. That's all that is said, about the greatest event that mankind has ever witnessed or known, the greatest event, one night she brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in a swaddling clothes and put Him in a manger, because there was no room for Him in the inn. Then the announcement is made verse 8 to 11

Luke 2:8-11

⁸And 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 Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

That's what I said, that we need to go into the Scriptures. God Almighty, through an angel, announcing the birth of His Son, to a very special, selected, audience; the poorest of the poor. These are not ordinary shepherds; these are probably care takers, poorest of the poor. God goes by what He says - *blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God.*

Isaiah 9:6

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be call, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Luke 2:11

¹¹Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

For there is born to you. Who is that us? Isaiah prophesied 600 years earlier, unto us but when it is specifically spoken to the poorest of the poor. Unto you a Son is given, unto you, at the city of David. Who is born? A Savior is born. A Savior is born who is Christ the Lord. It is interesting, absolute and total clarity of who is born and who he is, what is His purpose of coming. The clarity is given to a very set of very poor shepherds. Who can understand the ways of God? One fine alone is given in verse 12,

Luke 2:12

¹²This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

This will be the sign to you, nobody else, to you. Baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Because only you will understand, nobody will understand the sign. This sign is very close to your heart. So to you a sign is given. We have this all over, we just look at it Passover and go because we don't relate to that, we don't even know what a manger is, shepherds knew. To you a sign is given. There may be many babies born around at the same time in the Bethlehem. We know many were born, but to you a sign is given, you know which baby? That was wrapped up in a swaddling clothes, put in a manger. Don't mistake the baby, because if you get the baby wrong, that baby won't be able to save you. Your salvation is entirely depended upon the right baby. He is Christ the Lord. Suddenly you have verse 13 and 14,

Luke 2:13-14

¹³Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

I think last week at the church office, some of you were there and we had this festival for another particular religion, the sound and this things. I was telling some of the young ones, I used to listen to that music. Music in different religions is not the same, it is different within the same religion as well, because there are principalities, rulers and powers of darkness from the principality, down to the small little demon at the gully, there are all kinds of gods. So if you listen to all kind of songs and the music, you will be able to understand which demon they are worshipping. The nature of music changes. So when you go the higher forms of principalities and all, you have this extreme form of classic music. Because that big guy will not accept this music, will not accept that music, because all music are originated in the places of worship. Religion and music cannot be separated.

So if you were to give, you know because this is where culture comes in and culture divides the society. We are people of high culture and people of low culture. So you have forms of classical music, let us say western Christmas choir which will perform with classical tones and practice and all, but they will only perform to select audience. Why? cause the audience have to meet their culture. The greatest choir mankind ever heard was an angelic choir. When God sent, the angelic choir was sent to a set of poor shepherds, who did not understand music, who didn't know how to appreciate music. Who didn't know the scales or the octaves. That's my God, that's your God. Nobody ever before or after has every heard a song like this, it was angelic. Take a look at the audience.

Question- 52 Sundays are over. Do I despise the poor in my heart? Do I want to associate with them? If the worship team is asked to prepare, "Prepare! We are having a concert?" Prepare, prepare. First thing they will ask is, "Where?" Practice for 30 days, "Where?" You're going to go and sing and give the best to the slums. Slums? It's not who your singing to that matters, it is about whom you are singing to that matters. This is our major issue. If you don't bring Christ into everything that you do, it will not become worship. Whatever you do, the Bible says, do it as unto the Lord. The angelic choir was doing it unto there Lord who had sent them, the audience did not matter to them. They were singing about their God. Our Savior, not their Savior. Their God, our Savior.

Think for a minute - how did I worship God this whole year? Like I said, worship is not defined in church; worship is defined in the privacy of your closets early in the morning. If you haven't worshiped there, you haven't worshiped here. Like a man of God said, 'I perform to the audience one, that One.'

Luke 2:15

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

Suddenly, once they hear this news, nothing matters, business does not matter. They are in the business of rearing sheep and providing them properly to Jerusalem for their sacrifices. Business doesn't matter. We heard something, let us go. Read carefully - *Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass.* Did you believe what you heard? Jesus told Thomas eight days after resurrection, "*Blessed are those who believe without seeing.*" They haven't seen but they have already believed – "*Let us go and see what has come to pass.*" Do you know why the Gospel has been preached to the poor? Because God has made those who are poor in this world, rich in faith. There is no doubt, if you go to Jerusalem two years later it is full of doubt. In the out fields of Bethlehem there is no doubt. He said, "It has come to pass, let us go."

How many of you can say, "This is my 52nd Sunday where I have always come to Church on time"? You can't, because we had no believed what we have heard – '*When two or three are gathered in My Name I will be in your midst,*' that changes everything, that changes everything. If you believe, it changes everything. So the question is, they heard a report, they believed. The prophet Isaiah and Paul will echo that same cry, "Lord, who has believed our report? Did we believe? Did we go to Jesus this morning? For unto us, unto us, He is given, our Savior, Christ the Lord. If you go to Him, *in Hebrew 7:25*

Hebrews 7:25

²⁵Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

He is able to save to the uttermost, those who come to God, through Him. That's why He is the Savior. Everyday God says, "If you come to Me through Him, I will save." We all need saving, and we all need saving till our last day. We need to be saved, consistently and constantly. Did we go? Otherwise we can say 'Happy holidays' not 'Merry Christmas.' That's why in Christian nations they'll say, 'Happy holidays' cause nobody is going to Christ. There are just having fun, they are just having fun. So even the president will say, 'Happy Holidays,' he doesn't say, 'Merry Christmas,' cause if you say, 'Merry Christmas' then Christ is there. That's why we are very comfortable with Santa Clause. I still remember years and years ago, one of the little kids, she is grown up now, she is not here anymore. I asked her, "What happened at school last week?" She said, 'Santa Claus came and gave us all chocolates.' You ask any child out there in the world, they don't talk about Christ and Christmas, they talk about Santa Claus and Christmas.

Luke 2:16

¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

They made haste, circle that word. Ask this hard question. Do we make haste about anything concerning Christ? Tomorrow if it's not a holiday, you will rush to school, make haste to get our children ready and make haste before the gate closes. If you're working for a company, you will make haste to reach before time. But here are a set of people who made haste to see Jesus. There is silence in the house. One of those chapters that touch my eyes and heart many years ago, is with the first time when God visited a man, after the fall, is in Genesis chapter 18,

Genesis 18:1-3

¹And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; Who is that? Abraham.

²And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground,

How old is he? 99. Anybody 99 here? He ran and he bowed down then he says, in verse 3

³And said, My LORD, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant

There were three but he immediately recognized who the Lord was,

Genesis 18:4-5

⁴please let a little water be bought, wash your feet, rest yourself under the tree and I will bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh your hearts, after that you may pass by in as much as you come to your servant' and they said, 'Do as you have said.'

What did he say? 'Lord, do not pass me by.' When we say, 'Lord do not pass me by', do you know what we mean? We mean, 'Lord do not pass me by, please bless me as You go.' Now here he is not saying that, he is saying, 'Do not pass me by that I might bless you, I might bless you.' God visits man, and man is saying, "Lord," he is making haste. Why? Lord, that I may feed You. Lord that I may bless You. Lord, that You may take rest.

Ask that question, simple question.

Genesis 18:6

⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.

Suddenly you see everybody is running. For what? To serve the Lord. The shepherds made haste, the shepherds made haste, next time you come to church, when anything connected to God, even in your personal devotional, make haste, make haste, because there's somebody who sees. They made haste. Let's go back to Luke,

Luke 2:17

¹⁷When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child

They made him wildly know saying which was told to them concerning. 52 Sundays are over, did you make Him known to anybody? Anybody? Friday, we had a baptism, just a couple of kids. And I told, the number is irrelevant, just two, but it will be a proper baptism service, I'll take you through the scriptures. The number is irrelevant, what is happening is what matters. It is about Whom we are talking. Of all these services, as a pastor, you have to do, starting with baby dedication to funeral, everything in between, the most exciting is baptism, there's something about the baptism. Because you know Christ has been born in somebody. And there was a young man, I was seeing

him for the first time. His friend, one of our pastor's son, he had been telling me, "We were classmates, he ministered to me, he bought me to the Lord, he disciplined me." And that friend kept on telling me every time, "Uncle, uncle, next time you have baptism please remember me, my friend wants to get baptized." So I called him and said, "Sorry last time we forgot, this time we are having a baptism."

Did you make him known to your friends? It is a commandment, 'Go to the ends of the nations and make disciples, baptizing them.' They made Him widely known. This is the age of social media, you're all smart, all of you know how to use your app, your app queens and app kings. Have you used your social media to make Him known? Opportunities God gives us. We were telling last night, John Wesley travelled 50,000 miles on horseback, making Him widely known.

Ask this question. So that we can bring Christ back into Christmas, because it is not happy holidays, it is "Merry Christmas." Apostle Paul would say, "The love of God constrains me." In another place, "woe unto me, woe unto me if I don't preach the Gospel."

"Wait in Jerusalem, when the Promise of the Father; when the Holy Spirit comes, you shall receive power. You shall be My witnesses, My witnesses."

Shall we make him known? widely known. "Lord, I did not, but I want to, give me opportunities O' Lord, give me opportunities Lord. Let me not be ashamed of You. Let me never be ashamed of You. Lord never be ashamed of You, cause You are my Lord. You are my Savior. It doesn't matter who I am, it matters who You are." The shepherd didn't care who will believe our report, they made Him widely known.

Luke 2:20

²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

How did they return? How will you return? How will we return? Today complaining and grumbling? Status quo, as usual? Or glorifying and praising? Ask these questions - how will we return? Glorifying Messi? or Christ? We made haste to make everything ready before the broadcast was started. We made absolutely sure to have emptied our bladder, so that we could sit there 45 minutes without a break and then took the break with them. We made haste to worship Messi and when he hit his goal, we worshipped him. We did, we did. The idols of the modern man - sports, movies, music, drama. It's all business. There is nothing out there, just business. And we worship them, we idolize them. Five million people are on the streets of Paris to celebrate Messi, the crowds were too large, where the government had to airlift him and show them on the helicopter but when the Son of Man came nobody went.

Even today most of the world is not celebrating Christ; they are celebrating themselves. They are not celebrating Christ. If we had made Him widely know it would have been different celebration. Ask questions, it's good to ask questions.

Glorifying and praising God. The man at the gate called beautiful, when he got his healing, the Bible says that he went leaping into the temple, jumping and leaping and praising God. When the apostles were beaten for preaching Jesus Christ, they went rejoicing, for being counted worthy to suffer for His name sake. Paul and Silas were beaten and thrown into the prison, the Bible says, 'They were singing, because there is only One who deserves our praise, anytime, every time.'

They were poor, they properly are caretakers, so they didn't have a lamb of their own to offer Him but they had something to offer Him; they offered Him the sacrifice of praise. Now let us fast forward to two years. Your still in the Christmas story because the story of Christmas reaches people at different times of their life time. We did not hear when He was born, and when we were born we did not hear. But the story is repeated over and over and when Christ meets us and we meet Christ at different times. The same thing is there and another set of people is going to hear about Him two years later after He is born. It is still the Christmas story. For them two years later. Different time, different kind of people. Let's fast forward and reach there,

Matthew 2:1-2

¹Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,²Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him

The only thing actually connected with Christmas, the star. I have never seen anybody hang a manger, because it doesn't suit our refined sensibilities, because it is connected with cattle and dung. This, star, of course we all want to be stars. Super star, mega star, star looks good on me, not the manger because it smells. But if you want to be authentic, why don't you hang a manger? I am not ashamed because my Savior is born and kept in a manger. Where is He, born King of the Jews? Who is He? King of the Jews. Do you know even today He is the King of only Jews?

Romans 2:28-29

²⁸For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: ²⁹But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

He is still the only the King of Jews. Are you a Jew, who is not outwardly but one inwardly? Whose heart is always open to the circumcision by the Spirit, that telling, "Lord get rid of the things in me that I may love You and Your Son with all of my heart, with all of my soul, with my strength." God says, "I Am your King, I Am your King, I Am your King." Whose praise is from God, whose praise is not from man. Ask this question - Am I a Jew? If so, is He my King? Have you come to worship Him?

Matthew 2:1-2

¹Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, ²Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him

We have come to worship Him. Wise man from the east, this is not a thirty minute journey on uber, this was a two year journey, probably on camel back. Two year journey, to worship a Child, who is born King of Jews. The question you have to ask them, are you a Jew outwardly? No. Are you a Jew inwardly? Yes that's why I have come to worship Him. The Jews did not worship Him, the Gentiles did. And the distance, and the hardship and the expenses, nothing mattered. They did not have Scripture, they did not have prophecy, they did not have anything. All they had was the star. No angelic choir for them, no announcement to them, just a star.

Worship, what have we come for? We have come to worship. It must have cost them.

I still remember in my MA days, reading T. S. Eliot's poem called, 'Journey of the Magi.' And he writes about the kings of the east who lived in splendor and then they meet the Child, when they go back they are not the same. They cannot go back to their kingdom and enjoy their kingdom anymore, because they worshipped the King, something has changed inside. Life is never the same again, because they met Him and worshipped Him and life would never be the same again. David said, 'I will not offer Lord anything that has not cost me.'

Matthew 2:3

³When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

When Herod the king heard he was troubled. Why was he troubled? because no kingdom can handle two kings. Herod, the king was troubled, no kingdom can have two kings. There's only one country in this entire world which has two kings, there's a country called Bhutan, you have reigning king, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, around 40 years old and there is a father Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who abdicated his throne for his son, two kings but for the son to sit on the throne, the father abdicated. So when you see in the TV, you see only the son, you don't see the father. You only see the son, he is the king. You can't have two, there's only another place where you have two heads of states but one abdicated, it is in Vatican. Pope Benedict and Pope (whatever his name is). Before the current Pope could become the Pope, abdicated his throne. Even in the world they know, you cannot have two Popes. You cannot have two kings, you can have only one king.

And Herod the king was troubled, everyone who is sitting here and listening online, who thinks they are king, you will be troubled when you hear about Jesus, because He is King. Our issue is with Christ the King. Not Christ the Savior. You will be troubled and all are trouble are with Christ the King. So when He comes, He comes to reign. Herod was troubled, Herod was troubled. Either He is King or I am king. Without faith it is impossible to please God, so we take faith, use it as tool to please ourselves. Name it, claim it, have it. Whose king? You are king. Who serves you? God serves you. But for those whom God is King, "The same faith, God says, "you can name it, I AM whatever you want." They serve God, who is King. We have another gospel which is being preached, where you are king and faith

is used so that God serves you. Which gospel have you believed? which Jesus have you received? which spirit is in you? and when that God doesn't meet your prayers and your needs you get offended. The king is offended.

Naomi is offended, "Don't call me Naomi, call me 'Marah'. I went full, He brought me empty." Why are you offended? Who is King?

Able and Cain are there offering scarifies to God, the King. The King did not accept one person's offering. He (Cain) was angry because he was king. Whenever you get angry, always ask this question - who is angry? Who is king? That's why the Bible says, *the wrath of man does not bring the righteousness of God*, the King. Who is king? When Herod heard, Herod was troubled, are you troubled? because the King is coming, He is coming, He is much closer than anyone thinks. He is coming, He is coming, everything that is happening around the world is connected with His coming. By the time you reach the book of Malachi, God says "I disgust your sacrifice, stop your religion.

Look at 2022 Christmas, all of US is paralyzed by a monster storm, 250 million people are freezing. From Ottawa to Canada to Texas, sunny states. In Minnesota, my nephew said, "It is freezing inside, with the heater. It is minus 40 or minus 50. God says, "I am shutting down your Christmas." And the largest country that supplies all the Christmas gifts is shutting down, 230 million people are currently, supposedly infected with COVID in China. Your factory that supplies the gifts, I will shut that down and I will shut you down. Europe is gasping for gas because of the war. Ukraine and Russia are at war, who is celebrating Christmas? It is because you made it about Santa Claus and about yourselves, it's not about My Son.

Those who have ears, let them hear and wake up because He is coming. His coming, in His mercy, in His goodness, in His kindness, He is giving signs on earth and signs in Heaven, so that we will prepare ourselves. Who is coming? Not the Lamb of God, the King of God, the King is coming. First time when He came no one saw Him, next time when He comes every eye will see Him; as lightning flashes from sky to sky, east to west, every eye will see Him. That's the truth. That's why we have to ask this hard question - Who is King?

John 18:37

³⁷Pilate (representing the Rome asked) ***therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.***

I am a King but I'm not your King, for this cause I was born, for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth My voice. I am their King. We were born of truth, and we have to grow in truth and our ears have to constantly hear the voice of the Spirit of truth. I am their King. That's why the Magi come and make this incredible statement, "Where is He, born King?" You are not born a king, your born a prince. King Charles has two sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. And Prince Williams has sons and a daughter, they are all princes and princesses but Jesus was not born a prince, He was born King. That does not fit in our narrative. Where is He born King? Where is He born King?

Psalm 2:1-3

¹Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

There is a conspiracy against Christ and Christmas, anything connected with Christ. The kings of the earth, they don't want to come under the lordship of Jesus Christ. What does God say?

Psalm 2:4-6

⁴He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the LORD shall have them in derision.⁵ Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.⁶ Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

My King, God calls His Son, "My King." *On My holy hill of Zion, I will declare the decree, the Lord has said to Me, "You are My Son! Today I have begotten You."* Do you see this no contradiction in Scripture? When God begot His Son, He was begotten as King. When Herod heard, he was troubled. Are you troubled? If you're King then you'll be troubled, if you're not king you won't be troubled. You will say, "Come Lord Jesus, come Lord Jesus, take Your rightful place. You are Lord, I am not. You have the freedom, the right to tell me anything."

The greatest man who lived after Jesus Christ was Apostle Paul. The day he encountered Jesus, the first question, "Who are You?" "Jesus of Nazareth." Second question, "What do You want me to do?" Done! He never looked back. I've never read in human history a man who accepted the kingship and the lordship of Jesus Christ in seconds. And he never looked back and therefore Scripture is written through him. God could speak to through him because he was on the side of the truth and he could hear His voice.

Our struggles, real struggles, we have to take this to the Lord and say, "Lord I really struggle, I really struggle with your lordship. But I now, I have sung every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess, 'Christ is Lord', help me to do it before that day comes."

You know when the thieves were nailed to the cross, they take a long time to die, that's why they will come to break their legs. When Jesus comes back, if people don't kneel the Angels will break their legs, "Kneel! The King is here." Blessed are those who kneel now, it becomes a habit. 90 years 90 plus years old, and there is a decree that has gone out in Babylon, "For thirty days no one shall pray!" Daniel went, opened his window, went on his knees, as his habit; his knees always bow before Him, always bow before Him, "I can't stop it, I know one King, my knees always buckle before Him. He is Lord! I'm sorry king, I love you, I adore you, I respect you but your order contradicts the King of kings." Herod was troubled. Every time they hear about the King Jesus, they are troubled. You try telling your friends, 'Jesus is the only way,' you will realize. You know what it means? The lordship of Jesus Christ, then you will realize that people will have issues,

Matthew 2:3

³When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Not only Herod but all of Jerusalem, with him, was troubled.

Hebrews 12:22-23

²²But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

We have come to Jerusalem. Where have we come? Where have we come? To heavenly Jerusalem.

Galatians 4:22-26

²²For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. ²³But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, ²⁴which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar— ²⁵for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children— ²⁶but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

Who is your mother? Which is your Jerusalem? If your Jerusalem is from below, you will be troubled. If you're from Jerusalem that is from above, you will be excited. All Jerusalem, with him, was troubled. That's why through the prophet Isaiah God will say, 'Look unto Abraham and unto Sarah,' the Rock from which you were hewn. Unto Sarah, that's your mother. Unto us He will say, "Look unto Christ and there is a city there, Jerusalem, which is free." And your names are registered there, not here. It doesn't matter if your name is not written in church history, what matters is, it is registered there. If you are registered there and if you are from Jerusalem that is above, when you hear about Jesus, "Where is He, King of Jews," you won't be troubled. When you hear about the lordship of Jesus Christ, the kingship of Jesus Christ and constantly surrender to Him, you won't be troubled. You will say, "Thy will be done."

For all Jerusalem was troubled. Are you free? Is Jerusalem our mother? Below or above?

Daughters of Sarah, remember? Long ago I preached a message called 'Daughters of Sarah'? Nobody likes Sarah very much, when they get to know her. 'Wife submit to your husband in all things as unto the Lord.' See the problem is the Lord. 'Husband, love your wife as Christ loved the Church.' See the problem is Christ. Who is king in your home? See the issues in your family has got nothing to do with your problems, it has got to do with lordship of Jesus Christ, "Oh I cannot submit to him," is Christ your Lord? "Oh I believe in Him, I am saved." That's not the question.

Unto you, in the city of Jerusalem, is born Christ the Lord. Not Christ just your Savior. 'We have come to worship Him.' The lordship of Jesus Christ. 'Children obey your parents', what's the problem? Christ the Lord. 'Servants, obey your masters, not just eye-service, because of the Lord. Masters, be careful how you deal with your slaves, because

you have a Master in heaven. See everywhere there is an issue of lordship and that's where the problem comes. Everybody wants to be saved, nobody wants a king. We are living in the time of Judges, every one of us is king in his own eyes.

So, can we get Christ back into Christmas? If He gets back, He is Lord. The simple question is - who is King? Who is my King?

Revelation 19:11-16

¹¹ and I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon his was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.¹⁴ And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

This is the Baby that was in the manger. You see the little Baby, wrapped up in swaddling clothes, 2000 years ago. This is who He is now - King of kings, and Lord of lords. This is how He is coming back. So every celebration, every time we have a occasion, whether it is a wedding, whether it is a baptism we remind you of what it means, whether it is a child dedication, whether it is Christmas, we remind you of what it should be reminded of - He is coming! He is not coming as a baby, he is not coming as a baby. Yes He is the Lamb of God, He is still the Lamb of God; the Lamb that was slain before the foundation of the earth was laid, but the Lamb is King!

Revelation 17:14

¹⁴These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them (they thought He was still a small lamb): for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Remember last Sunday Pastor Vijay preached - they followed Him wherever He went. You know the ones who follow Him wherever He goes? Those who were first, called; they were not chosen, they were first called, and there was period of testing, then they were chosen and even when they were chosen and send out, 12 were chosen by God. 11 remain faithful, 1 was discarded. The called, The chosen, and the final - The faithful. How will we end? How will we end? Because the King is coming. This is not about jingle bells or the reindeer or that fat man. No, every Christmas, as long as we have the freedom and the liberty, we should declare the One who is coming. The One who has come, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Now that You are saved, believe in that One who is coming. This is how He is coming and He is King of kings, and Lord of lords. And with Him are those who are called, the chosen, and the faithful. Very soon, the trumpets will blow, the trumpets will blow and when it blows, when the final trumpet blows the kingdoms of this world shall become the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

And there is a Hindi song we sing in north India, when we go over there, it says, 'Akari thuhi bagathay time, thum kaha hoga, may kaha hoga?' When the last trumpet blows, where will you be? Where will I be? Ask these serious questions, these are very serious questions to ask. Lord, if You were to come before this day is over. What is your confidence? Where does your confidence come from? There is the hope of salvation, that's different. This is the hope of glory.

Peter would say, 'To your faith add this, add this, add this, add this, add this, add this, add this,' then titan, the bolt with this nut called 'love', and if this love keeps on growing with increasing measure, abounding in your life, you will receive a rich welcome into the Kingdom of God. You can make your calling and your election sure, brethren.

John will say, 'At His appearance, we will not have to be ashamed, we can have confidence.' It is because those who are saved, every opportunity is to prepare ourselves, prepare ourselves, because the King is coming. The King is coming. A king like no other king, He is coming. This is not is king where you declare like outside the Buckingham palace, 'The queen is dead, long live the king.' This King never dies. He is the Priest of the order of Melchizedek forever and ever. Through one sacrifice He has perfected everyone who is being saved. And the Bible says that He has sat down. When all the priests are standing, including this priest, is standing, He doesn't stand, He sits down because His work is finished. When He comes back He is coming as a King, King of kings and Lord of lords.

So we prepare ourselves constantly. So it is not 'happy holidays', if He is not King, then happy holidays. But if He is King and Lord, have a merry Christmas. You are merry gentle men and merry gentle women.

Matthew 2:4-6

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Wow, these guys know Scripture. Pandith hay sub. Biblical pandiths. One Scripture alone. Entire 39 books, 1000 of 1000 of verses, one verse alone about where will He be born, they know it. Sabash! **Micah 5:2** they could quote without opening the scroll, (*But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*)

They did not need GPS, they knew precise location, they had the information too. The question is - did anyone go? Did anyone hear? Christ has been on earth for two years, did anyone hear? No. That's why God says, "All those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit says." 30 years later, when the fore-runner is presented before Christ is presented, the Bible says, in the year of Caesar and this king and that king, and this priest, the Word of the Lord went to the wilderness to John, because he had ears that could hear. The shepherds had ears that could hear.

Did you get the message there, the message for us now, today? You know the written Word by heart, but if the written Word does not lead you to the Living Word, you still haven't met the Savior.

They knew the written Word, they knew precisely where it was but it didn't take them to the Living Word. If it's still written Word for you and still not Living Word, go fall on your face before God and say, 'Lord have mercy. I'm just in that group, I know Scripture, but Scripture doesn't know me, Scripture doesn't know me.'

Do you remember that old illustration I gave you? There was a competition in some town, Christian town in US where everybody was asked to come prepared to come to have a recital of *Psalms 23* and different people came and finally one young man comes and gives a flawless rendering of *Psalms 23* and everybody stood up and clapped, after that final was an old man, he came with a faltering voice, he recited *Psalms 23* by the time he finished, tears were flowing, the young man came back, he took the microphone and he said, "I knew the Shepherd's Psalm, but he knows the Shepherd of the Psalm." What do you know? What do I know? Ask these questions. Do we know Scriptures? Or do we know the Lord of the Scripture? Do we know the Shepherd's psalm? Or do we know the Shepherd of the Psalm? That's David, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Personalizes everything, 'the Lord is my Shepherd, that's why I will not want.' Not because Lord is Shepherd. For us, we actually say it but what we mean is, 'the Lord is Shepherd, so I shall not want. God says, "Whose Shepherd? Am I your Shepherd? Can I lead you?"

They knew. But sight doesn't lead to faith. We are hearing, we are watching, but sight doesn't lead to faith. Apostle Thomas said, "I will not believe, unless I have seen the nail marks in His hands and His driven side and put my fingers there," and Jesus came. "Hi Thomas," and He showed His hands and Thomas said, "My Lord, my Savior." You know what He told him? "Thomas, you believed because you saw but blessed are those who believe without seeing."

Let me ask this question - Did the shepherds see? No, before they saw they believed. They said, "Let us go and see what has been told to us, which has come to pass." These people heard, they had Scripture, the priest and the scribes, knew much but they never moved. The poor shepherds knew very little but when they heard, they hastened. It is better to know little and go to Him than to know much, and never move. You remember the story I told you about a town? Every week, once a week a train used to pass by and there was only one church and the pastor used to go, (he was a train lover like me), he used to go, talk to the station master and ask, "Is the train on time?" 15 minutes, 20 minutes, he would sit there regularly every week. Then he would watch the train pass by. So one day the station master had ask him, "Why do you come to see this train?" He says, "You know all the town comes to my church, but this is the only one thing moves without me having say anything. So I get relief. I have to stand, I have to shout, I have to scream but nobody moves, but this train at least moves."

We have all the information, everything, on our fingertips, are we moved? They knew the location. You have heard it, you are pandiths now. Distance from Jerusalem to Bethlehem, 10 miles. How much? 10 to 12 Kilometers, that's all. Did anybody go? First they did not hear, so they couldn't go. After they heard also they didn't go. How long does it take to walk 10 Kilometers? One hour? The priest had head full of faith. The shepherds had heart full of faith. *With the heart man believes, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?* If your knowledge and my

knowledge of the Bible does not lead to the knowledge of the Savior, all that we read and study is pointless. The shepherds and the wise men from the east, they went to Jesus. And priest and the scribe stayed at home and continued their Bible studies,

John 5:39-40

³⁹ Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.⁴⁰ And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

“If you were willing to come to Me, you would have life. The shepherds went and they had life, the Magi went and they received life. You have all the scriptures but you are not willing to come to Me. The Scripture are only talking about Me.” I keep telling, that when your reading Scripture, don't look for knowledge, that is secondary. First is faith, to faith add virtue and then knowledge, but first faith. If Scripture doesn't produce faith, Scripture hasn't failed you, you failed Scripture. Scripture never fails, it never fails, it can never fail. I can fail everyday but Scripture cannot fail. The purpose of Scripture, is not to provide information, it is to generate intimacy. Why do people not go to Jesus? One of the main reasons,

Luke 2:11

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

He is a Savior. Only sinners need a Savior. Righteous people, like you, don't need a Savior. I need every day, I have to wake up and go before God because I know I am a sinner. Only sinners need Savior. That's why the religions are diametrically opposite. Geetha Krishna says, 'Yuga to yuga I am born to destroy the sinners and to save the righteous.' Jesus comes and says, "The righteous doesn't need a Savior, I have come for the sinners." They are not the same, if you think you are a sinner, you will go to the Savior but if you are not conscious that you are a sinner, you will not see the need for a Savior. Only if you and I keep on going to Him, the Bible says that He will save us to the uttermost. But you have to go to Him, those who come to God, through Him, He is able to save to the uttermost.

Second problem people have with Him is He is born King. One of the things is that those who ministered to me, when I was 18 years old, they just told me, 'Just kneel down and ask Jesus to come into your heart.' They didn't tell me, when He comes, He comes as King. I said, "Okay, big deal," because by then it was already 11:30 in the night, like I said we all had single rooms in the hotel. The hostel room had only one door, so there is no way that I could escape, he came to my room. So I thought, "Okay, let me kneel down and ask Jesus to come into my life, and he will go." The problem is that he went but Jesus never left. And then I realized that the One who came in has the habit of taking over. See my issue with Jesus never has been with Jesus being the Savior. My issue with Him is that He was Lord. I still remember, first time when Sameer and all put up that picture of the lake and this thing and all, and I was telling my wife, "That's the lake, my first camp, youth camp," I said, "I was there in the years 1980s, I don't know. Young kid, I was there 18, 19 years old. I still remember, the youth camp and in the final day of youth camp, there was this campfire and then we were all singing and suddenly the leader said, 'All of you who want to give your life to full time ministry, put up your hand,' I don't know, I don't know how my hand went up, involuntary my hand went up; a guy who did not know Scripture, who did not know what ministry was, his hand went up. I put my hand up very religiously with my eyes shut and when I opened my eyes, I saw only my hands went up."

Telling you, lordship of Jesus Christ. I got into ministry, without understanding what ministry was. Me, coming from a catholic family has only seen priest in robes, I didn't know what protestant ministry is. I still remember my first house visit, spoke the Word, ten minutes, prayed and they gave me an envelope. And I looked at the envelope and said, 'Sir, you didn't write the address on the envelope? On the way I will post it,' because I did not know that in ministry u get an offering. I did not know. There are offerings in the ministry, then he said, "No brother this is for you," I said, "I didn't understand." he said it is an offering. I went back and asked my pastor, "What is this?"

Savior and Lord

Matthew 2:9-10

⁹ When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

They didn't even see the Child. They saw the star that was leading them to the Child. Are you happy? I do, when I drive back at 9:30 in the night from my office to my home, I look around, that's a Christian's house, that's a Christian house, that's a Christian house, that's a Christian house. 'Lord, Your people. I don't know them, I may never know them, but they are Your people.' Ask David is here, many, many, years ago, almost 18-20 years ago, when I was in Chennai, on a Sunday we went to church, early for service then we went for breakfast. Chennai is interesting, the restaurant was full of Christian who had come after the first service, I was so excited. I went and shook hands with everyone, "Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord." Do you know them? No. Have I ever met them after that? No.

You know why? What is the star signifying? Inside who is there? Christ is born. That's why every time I told you, if you want to put up something, put a star above your house, until the government says, 'take it off,' let them know, "Christ dwells in this house." They were exceedingly glad, exceedingly happy. Everything was forgotten, everything was forgotten, two years of journey, the aches, the pains, travelling through ravens, wilderness, and deserts then harsh climates, everything was forgotten, "You know what? We have come to the end of our journey, for the star stopped," everything was forgotten. One day we will reach the end of our journey, do you know what it is written? Father will wipe every tear away, "Journey is over, it's over, it's over, it's over. Even when didn't you feel it, you didn't know it, I was with you every movement of the day. But now that journey is over. No sorrow, no grief, no sickness, no violence, no temptation, no falling, it's all over son, it's all over daughter, it's over."

The Bible says then we shall see Him face to face, the joy, joy. Is our joy about same thing? Or is it about the lunch that follows? Look at that, exceeding great joy. You have to have memories. When you been up in that mountains for a whole year, then we get into the train at a station called, New Jalpaiguri or you get in from Guwahati. You cross Assam, you cross Bihar, you cross Bengal, you cross Odisha, you cross Telangana, those days it was AP, then you cross Tamil Nadu, then you cross Coimbatore when you cross Coimbatore, your heart starts beating, because you know it's getting close and an hour later the terrain changes, it is all green; it is all green and you pass a small tunnel and it is written 'You are entering Kerala.' And you know what you have to see the songs that come out, these are soldiers returning after one year or two, they have all song, you know what it is — 'In the land of coconuts I have a small plot, I'm coming home.'

We have a Country, we have a City, we have a House, we have a Family and we have a Father. This (the earth and the world) is not our destination; we are going Home one day. Are you glad? Exceedingly glad, knowing what He did for us, and that's why we can go Home? The believer in Ukraine, if, today, he dies because of bomb, he knows where he is going. The others may have no hope. That's why the Bible says, through Apostle Peter, 'We had been birthed into a Living Hope.' Exceeding joy. Do we have joy? It's the day we will all be there, it's called The Day. We are going Home.

I always tell people, home is always connected with people. Home is connected with people, do not make your home about things, it is about people, if you make it about things it's a house, if you make it about people then it's a home. It's a home, don't substitute one thing for the other. That's why God says, 'Do not love the world or the things of the world.' Home will become a house, house is full of things, home is full of people. Two weeks back my mother was bed ridden, absolutely bedridden, we thought she was going to go, then her children came, all her children came, from every end they came, she saw them, they laughed with her, joked with her, they fed her, they washed her hair, the sons washed her hair, they did everything and they left. Yesterday she sat in the wheelchair, she came to the front room, she ate with her own hands. There's a place called home.

You know our children who came to LHL the ones who were thrown into the dustbin and all nobody wanted them and all, you know what we used to tell the Ayahs? We used to tell the ayahs, "They are very sick, they have no will to fight to live, hold them and tell them in their ears a 1000 times, 'I love you.' I told Madhulika, "Daddy loves you, you will not die, you will not die." Those sick children, abandoned children, that child was thrown into the dustbin, before the dogs got her the cops picked her and brought her to us, they have no will to live, because they have never known love.

Matthew 2:11

¹¹And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

You see these are gentiles, these are not Jews or Christians, who are these? These are gentiles, they are gentiles. The Jew and the Christians had been told lift up your hands, clap your hands, wave your hands, but they knelt down and worshipped Him, nobody had to tell them. They just fell down and worshipped Him. Does our encounter with Christ cause us to worship? You see in the Bible, Old and New Testament, whenever people encountered God their response was 'My Lord, my God.' Whether it is prophet Isaiah or Peter the fisherman, "My Lord, depart from me." It's written, in Heaven, Apostle John saw, when Jesus comes, the 24 elders, the highest in the hierarchy there, cast their crowns and they worshipped Him. Sweetest thing Jesus tells us, through His conversation with the Samaritan woman is, "My Father seeks, (seeks what?) worshipers." Worshipers.

and when they had opened their treasures,

And they opened treasures. See how very beautiful Scripture is. That is why I said it is an authentic true Book. they opened their treasure and presented gifts. *God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son*, because Christmas is all about giving, all about giving. And it all began, He gave His Son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, not glittery clothes, put Him in a manger and offered Him to us and before He left He hung Him on the Cross, drenched in blood, and offered Him to us, "This is My Son."

They opened their treasures, and gave gifts. What the gifts are, don't worry about it. Don't worry about what they give, worry about what we give. Listen there are three types, ways in which people give gifts. A gift which is usually associated with value, second, with motive and third which meets a need. So if you are giving a gift to a king you don't give an ordinary gift, even if you don't have money, you will sell and give because of who he is. The gift has to be of value because of the person, right? The value of the gift is related to the person to whom you are giving or how you value that person.

Second is the motive, why do you give? A little baby was wrapping a box with nice glittering, this thing and that thing, put everything, taped it and on Christmas put in under the tree and kept it and the father came and opened the gift first and when he opened he said, "Honey the box is empty," and she said, "No daddy, I blew it with full of kisses." So it's not the values here it's the motive and then there is me who will tell you, "If you want to gift me, give me notes books and pens." It will last me a year, it is a need, don't buy me clothes because nobody can figure my size out, you can never find a trouser of mine because I am neither 30 nor 32, I am 31, but they only get 30 and 32 so don't get me clothes, don't get me anything. So I said, if you are getting a gift, let it meet a need. So value, motive and need.

God so loved the world. What is the motive? Love. He gave His only begotten Son. That's why Peter would say, "We were not redeemed by gold or silver but by the Blood of God's own Son." It's not that we valued God, but that He valued us. By the gift you give, you are telling how much you value that person. He loved us and He valued us, the Son He gave us, you know what is says?

Ephesians 1:3

³He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus.

Do you know what it means? Every need you and I require in this life and in the life to come is met in Christ Jesus.

2 Peter 1:3

³According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.

One is for now and the other one is for the Day to come, everything has been given. So the value, the motive and the need, everything has been packaged, that's the package that you saw in the manger. You don't have a single need you and I will face in life, this life or the life to come, which is not met in Christ Jesus. How do we receive it? Through the exceedingly great promises. That's what the Bible says, every promise is yea and amen in Christ Jesus, in Christ Jesus, in Christ Jesus. They opened their treasures, and the Father opened His treasure and He gave His only Son. God so loved the world and He gave His only begotten Son.

Overwhelmed by this truth, Paul says,

Romans 8:32

³²He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

The gift of His Son, how do you receive it? "Repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ." He gives you the gift of repentance, do you know that? You think you repented? No. He gave it, free gift; the gift of repentance. Read your Scripture carefully. That's why no man will boast saying, "I repented and I believed," God says, "No. I gave you the gift of repentance." 'I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.' No, He gave you the gift of faith; "To unto every man He gave a measure of faith to believe." He gave the gift of His Son. He gave us the gift of repentance, He gave us the gift of faith and when we believed He gave us the gift of justification, read *Romans 5*. And when we were justified He gave us the gift of His righteousness and He gave us the gift of eternal life. Everything in Scripture is a gift. And then He gave us the gift of His Holy Spirit. These are all the gifts of the Father. Can you undo the Son? The Son says that when He rose again taking captivity captive, He gave the gifts - Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, Teachers, for the equipping of the saints to ministry until the fullness of the stature of Christ. The Son gives. And when the Spirit comes, He comes with full of gifts. That's what the Bible says and Paul will say, "What is it that you have that you have not received? Nothing. So why do you boast?" The wise men opened their treasures and gave gifts.

So as we close. After 11 chapters of unbelievable scriptural exegesis, Apostle Paul from chapter 1 to chapter 11, after it all he has this appeal,

Romans 12:1

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

"I beseech thee brethren, the light of the mercies," every gift I mention is the mercy of God; in His mercy He gives gift after, gift after, gift after gift, in the light of all these mercies, I beseech you brethren, offer your bodies as a living sacrifice. This morning, what did He ask? Offer your bodies. That's what my wife says, 'Give me your wallet,' because in that wallet is the money, the debit card and the credit card, 'Give me your wallet.' What did God say? "Give Me your body," in it is the soul and spirit and the body, "Give Me your body." He doesn't demand, He says, "Give it."

The simple question is - what can we give Him today? He says, "Can you give Me your body?" This morning He asks, "Can you give Me your body?" Not like what we were taught when we were small, at night, 'Now I lay my head to sleep, now I give my body to You,' you wake up in the morning and take it back. As a living sacrifice, we offer ourselves to the Savior, by surrendering ourselves and trusting our Savior, and we surrender our lives to the King. This is the only birthday on earth where everybody gives gifts to each other and the birthday Boy never gets anything.

Today can you stand up? Can we stand up? As an act of faith, it is all by faith. An act of faith. Repentance is a gift, faith is a gift. Everything from God is a gift, because we can never earn it. By faith we go, by faith we receive, we go through this Word, see the promises of God and we say, 'Lord, here I come,' we used to sing that song, right? 'What do I have to offer You? One heart and two hands.' If we have heard and asked ourselves hard questions, my prayer is let this Christmas be different for all of us, none of us are saved to the uttermost, we are on the way. But we should be on the way, because Somebody else is on the way. Rules and regimes are changing, very soon the time will come, where you will not be able to buy or sell. A day is very close, everything is set in place, everything is set in place and they are cracking down, everything. We thought COVID had gone. No, these things will never go. Wars will never go, there's only one real war, in this entire world, you know where it is? In the middle east, only one real war in the middle east; Israel and Palestine, that is the real war. Every other war is an set up from the illuminati to get the people, there are no real wars. Through war, through pestilence, through famine, through everything they will break the will of man and those who know Him (God) will do great exploits.

This is not the time to joke, this is serious time, they are taking over. You can't change Scripture. When the women cried over Him, He said, "Don't cry over Me, I am crying over you," He said, "I'm crying over you." The cry in the Bible is, "Come out! Come out! Come out of this system! Come out of this system, don't be dull in your mind, be in the world but do not be part of the world because you will not know that Day and the hour that will come upon you. What is happening around everything is a setup but the Bible says, "I will come like a thief in the night, but," He says, "thief in the night are those who are in the dark but that Day should not catch you unawares because you are children of light." Even if you are children, they were children in the Bible who were prepared, who heard, who walked with God.

So forget the past 51 Sundays, this is the 52nd Sunday, maybe this is the day, this is the day, we say, 'Lord here I surrender. I come to You, You are my Savior, You are my Lord. I surrender. Wash me clean, wash me clean and help me to walk with You.'

The remaining 7 days let 2023 be different, absolutely different, that we are not afraid, because the Bible says that none of these things will separate you from the love of God, for those who are in Christ Jesus. God says, "When these things happens, the hearts of men shall fail because of fear, but you say lift up your heads because your redemption draws nigh," it is Scripture, it is true. So, lift up your heads today, don't be afraid because He has not given us the Spirit of fear but of love, power, sound mind.

Closing prayer

Father this morning we come to You, we surrender as best as we know and I pray, rest of our lives each day, let it be surrendered, break every yoke, for this purpose the Son of Man came, that He might destroy the works of the devil in us, we surrender. Above all touch our hearts that our hearts are stayed on You, throughout the day, through the days, through the years, our hearts are stayed on You. Let there be a cleansing, let there be a renewal, let there be a healing, let there be a deliverance, for You did not come to condemn, You came to save but You do ask hard questions, when the disciples of John followed You the first question You asked is, "What do you seek?" You do ask hard questions, we have asked hard questions and the answer is we want to put Christ back in our Christmas, and Christ back in the centre of our lives, this is not about us, this is about You. And I pray in every life, let there be only one King, one Lord, one Savior, that's the best gift we can give You, this morning it's an act of faith, we open our treasure and we give You our gift, we give You ourselves, Lord Jesus, however filthy we may look, however dirty we may look, we open our treasure and we give You ourselves, O Lord would You receive it and cleanse it with Your precious blood and use us, each one anywhere, whichever manner You choose, for Your glory, for Your honour, for Your praise, for in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Benediction

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the Holy Spirit rest and abide with each one of us. Amen, Amen, Amen.