

Advent Sunday ~ Sunday, December 1, 2024

“Christmas According to Jesus ~ Revelation”

John 18:33-40

The season of Advent is characterized by _____, preparation, promise, and _____.

Advent calls us to celebrate God’s love for us made _____ in so many ways: in a manger, on a cross, in an empty tomb, and in clouds of glory. Christ has come, Christ is here with us, and Christ will come again. Our celebration of Advent expresses through Scripture, ritual, and prayer these three stages of the _____ story.

However, Jesus’ advent into the world—past, present, and future—was not and is not intended to simply brighten our Decembers, but rather to _____ our lives. At the climax of the trial, as Pilate prepares to render his verdict, and all the momentum will race towards the cross, Jesus is thinking about _____. As He faces death, Jesus’ thoughts go to His _____ and to why He came,

We may not want to think about the sufferings and crucifixion of Jesus this time of year, we may rather _____ at the manger, but the truth is, there’s really no way to make sense of the nativity without the _____, and no way to understand Christmas without the _____.

3 IMPORTANT QUESTIONS THAT JESUS ADDRESSES

Question #1. _____?

Jesus goes on to say that He was born that first Christmas to _____ a kingdom defined and characterized by the _____.

“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I came into the world—to bear witness to the truth.” (John 18:37)

I was born = reminds us of the all too familiar _____ of the Christmas story.

Like all newborns, Jesus, was 100% _____ on His parents for everything.

And His ability to make sense of the world grew in a manner _____ with His age.

Jesus isn’t God merely _____ like a man. Jesus is a man! Fully, thoroughly, comprehensively, _____ human.

I came into the world = His human birth was not His absolute _____, and the person of Christ existed long before becoming human.

John uses this exact same phrase in the prologue to his gospel to speak about Christ’s _____.

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him and there was not anything made that was made without Him. In Him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it...he truth light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.” (John 1:1-5, 9)

As fully human, Jesus had a _____, conceived in the womb of the virgin, born with ten fingers and ten toes, laid in a manger, and cradled in Mary’s arms. However, as the the second person of the Trinity, as the Word who was with God and who was God, His birth wasn’t His beginning. He always was. His birth, rather, was His coming into the world in a new way, _____ human nature to His divine nature forever in one person.

Notice that Jesus refers to His _____ twice in this verse.

Not only was Christmas the birth of the God-Man, it was also a _____ birth, according to plan.

All the ages have been _____ for Him. All the hopes of Israel focused upon Him. And all the need of all the lost in every age and in every place are _____ only in Him.

It’s the Advent of the God-Man, truly human, truly divine, two _____ in one person forever, long promised, eagerly awaited, and now finally _____.

Question #2. _____?

“For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I came into the world to bear witness to the truth.” (John 18:37)

Jesus was born and came into the world, that He might bear witness to the _____.

TWO THINGS TO NOTE

- Jesus uses _____ language here, “I came to bear witness

Although Jesus is the one on trial, He isn’t speaking in His own _____. Instead, He stands before Pilate as a witness for the _____ in God’s lawsuit against

all who have exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and who _____ the truth in unrighteousness.

Christmas happened so that sin, error, and all the spiritual _____ that blinds the eyes of the unbelieving world might be _____, unmasked, and exposed. Christmas happened so that no one could stand before God on the last day and have an _____ for denying God or rejecting Jesus.

There will be no _____ on the last day at the great tribunal of God for those who have resisted God's offer of _____.

• What Jesus _____ by "the truth."
Certainly He means more than just that He came to set the record _____ in contrast to our many errors. Or that He came to give us some additional _____ about God that we wouldn't otherwise have had access to.

In John's gospel in particular, when Jesus talks about "the truth," He has something much more _____ in mind than correct notions and accurate conclusions.

Jesus, as John put it in his prologue, is "_____ grace and truth."

Jesus, Himself, is the real thing, the ultimate _____, the final answer for which all our hearts are seeking. As the _____ of Truth itself, Jesus is in His person the _____ of God to a sin-darkened world.

In Jesus, Truth with a capital "T" has stepped onto the scene of history into a world of confusion, _____, and error.

This has enormous _____, and we'll never fully understand why that first Christmas happened if all we have are the historical _____ about the birth of this child two millennia ago. Although they're important, we need so much more than just the facts. We can only begin to grasp the full meaning of Christmas, when we get to know Jesus _____ for ourselves

Question #3. _____?

"For this purpose I came into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." (John 18:37)

Pilate's words are dismissive and _____. They aren't the words of an earnest _____ looking to know the truth at last, but those of a cynic who doesn't believe in truth. As the representative of the Rome in Judea, Pilate believed in political expediency. He believed in power and influence. He cared nothing for _____.

This exchange between Jesus and Pilate sets before us two _____ that we need to choose from as we begin this Advent season. On the one hand, we have an _____. And on the other, we have the _____ of one who already thinks he _____ everything: power, affluence, influence, and fame. What need does he have of the truth?

As we read through John's account, it's clear that it's not really Jesus who is on trial here, but _____. And in this courtroom, Pilate is the one exposed as _____.

As we look back on our lives over this past year, we can be tempted to feel _____ with ourselves

However, like Pilate, thinking this way can cause us to _____ the One who was born to bear witness to the truth. It can tempt us to be so filled with _____ and with what we have, that we don't _____ to Jesus.

***Akouo* = listen =**

It encompasses both the _____ act of hearing and the deeper understanding or _____ of what's heard. It implies not only auditory _____, but also an attentive and _____ response.

The One who is the Truth, the One who is the _____ that our hearts are hardwired to seek, is the One who invites us to turn from the lie of our own _____ and pretended self-sufficiency to Him, and to hear His voice in the word of the Gospel. When we do that, Jesus says, we become not just truthful people, but people of the Truth—true ones _____ to the One who is Himself the Truth.

This Advent, Jesus wants to _____ the darkness of our ignorance, spiritual blindness, and the illusion of our independence and _____—the hollow, empty deception that the world offers—and bring the _____ of truth into our hearts anew.

Christmas matters because in the birth of Jesus, the truth shone in the darkness to give us the light of _____. And, until we listen to His voice, until we come to Jesus in repentance and faith, until we entrust ourselves entirely to Him, we still walk in that darkness. However, if we come to Him, He promises to give us the light of life, and that is the greatest of _____ we can receive this Christmas. The light of life: to know the Truth that will set us _____.

