

The 2nd Sunday of Advent ~ Sunday, December 8, 2024

“Christmas According to Jesus ~ Fulfilment”

Matthew 5:17-20

Advent provides us with the perfect opportunity to _____ amidst the busyness and rush of the season, to take an _____ look at our lives—and to prepare not just our homes, but also our _____, to welcome Jesus anew this Christmas.

If we really want to grasp the full _____ of Christmas, we can't do any better than to focus on some of the key statements that Jesus made in the gospels, telling us how He _____ what was taking place that day in Bethlehem, and why He came into the world.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17)

Christmas is about the mission of Christ to fulfill the _____ of God.

Heading #1. Christmas according to Jesus is the _____.
Before he tells us why he came into the world, Jesus starts by correcting some _____.

He tells us that it's not enough to have our own _____ on the subject. In fact, how we prefer to think about Jesus' birth couldn't matter less. What matters is that we get to the _____ about that first Christmas and what it was really all about.

“the Law and the Prophets,” = shorthand for the whole of the Hebrew Scriptures—or Old Testament _____; it's shorthand for the Bible that Jesus had and used.

katalyo = *abolish* =

It was a word that was often used to describe the _____ of a building.

In using this word here, Jesus isn't just referring to the end of the Law and Prophets, but a brick by brick _____, a total destruction, as if He was a wrecking ball come to demolish the entire edifice of the old _____.

There was something quite _____ about Jesus' life, ministry, and teaching, which was marked by the beauty of an incomparable _____ that no one could ignore. And so, inevitably some people began to fear His real mission was to _____ everything that had come before Him, wipe the slate clean, and make a fresh start on a completely new basis.

Ever since that first Christmas, the world has been living in the age of _____ of everything that was written and proclaimed in the the Old Testament scriptures, which _____ for, and spoke about, Jesus' coming in a variety of ways.

All of the _____ of the old covenant system of religion: the festivals and sacrifices, the tabernacle and temple system, the prophets, priests, and kings, were all a _____, pointing to the person and work of Christ, setting who He is and what He came to do vividly before the eyes of faith among the people of God.

All the _____ of the prophetic books, from Isaiah through Malachi, speak of One like a son of man, the heir of David, the servant of the Lord, the righteous branch, the root of Jesse who'd come to restore justice and peace.

We could zoom out even further than that, and say that the whole pattern of Israel's national life and the very structure of Old Testament _____ as a whole spoke of _____ who was yet to come.

The Bible regards Israel as God's typological _____, called out of Egypt, given a law and told to obey. But like Adam before them, Israel failed to _____ and fell under divine judgment. And so, One would come who would be born of a virgin. That is to say, who would _____ the regular course of human generations, signalling that He is now the beginning of a new humanity, a second _____.

And like Israel, He too would come out of Egyptian _____. He too would face _____ in the wilderness. He too would pass through the waters of the Jordan. But unlike Adam who didn't obey God's Law in the garden, and unlike Israel who couldn't obey God's Law in the wilderness, Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the second Adam and the True Israel would _____ every promise and obey every precept throughout His earthly life and ministry. And just as judgment fell on Adam for his sin and on Israel for their sin, judgment would also fall on Jesus; however, not for any sin of His own, but for _____ sin and for the sin of all people.

“You searched the Scriptures because in them you think that you have eternal life. And it is they that bear witness to me.” (John 5:39)

“Until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.” (Matthew 5:18)

Even though Jesus has brought about the fulfilment of the patterns and promises of the old covenant, He has not in any way _____ with the truth taught in them

or the core of divine law that binds the _____ of all people everywhere to the obedience that God demands.

This clearly shows us Jesus' view of the Bible: it's binding, _____, divine revelation, and we can't do without a single pen stroke of it.

Part of the message of Christmas is that the written Word of God, all of it—the promises made in the old covenant and the promises fulfilled in Jesus' in the new covenant—now commands our _____ and claims our _____. The first coming of Christ doesn't render parts of the Bible unnecessary. Rather, it _____ their authority by fulfilling their promises.

From the dawn of history, everything has been _____ to this moment. All the lines of Scriptural revelation pointed to it, and now converge upon it. All the types and shadows of the Old Testament have _____ it, all the promises of God have guaranteed it, and all the hopes of all people have _____ upon it.

Heading #2. Christmas according to Jesus requires us to _____

Often our thinking about Christmas can get quite _____. However, the problem with a purely sentimental approach to the Christmas story is that it can be so subjective and personal, that it's easily _____.

Even though Christmas is meant to effect each one of us on a deep and personal level, it's also a _____ and universal truth with cosmic _____, changing fundamentally and forever the way in which human beings can _____ God, no longer by way of ceremony and sacrifice, but now only through the _____ life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This is a reality that everyone has to reckon with

“Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 5:19-20)

3 POSSIBILITIES FOR CITIZENSHIP IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- It's possible to be in the kingdom, but called the _____ because of our relative _____ to obedience to God's Word.
- It's possible to be in the Kingdom and be called _____ because of our _____ obedience to God's Word.

- It's possible to choose to never _____ the Kingdom of heaven at all.

The category into which we fall has to do with how we _____ to the Word that's now fulfilled in Jesus, and is therefore, all the more _____ and compelling now that He's come.

The special target of Jesus' words here is those who _____, as He mentions the Scribes and Pharisees in verse 20, who were considered to be the _____ of careful obedience to the Law, and who, typically assumed for themselves the role of teacher among the Jewish people.

The Pharisees thought they were _____ of legal obedience, scrupulous in their careful adherence to every ceremony and ritual, and their obedience to every obligation and law. However, they were so focussed on _____ obedience to outward forms that they missed the _____ of God's Law.

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.” (Matthew 5:21)

In the wake of the first Christmas, now that He has come, His fulfilment of the Law in no way weakens our obligation to be _____. In fact, His coming clarifies the true, inward character of the obedience required of us all. Jesus' standards aren't lower, looser, or lesser than the Pharisees. They're far _____! True righteousness doesn't just effect our _____, it also penetrates to our heart, to our motives, to the hidden _____ of our soul.

Jesus is telling us that if all the righteousness we have is _____ and outward, a righteousness like that of the Scribes and Pharisees, a religious/churchy righteousness, and nothing more, we'll never enter the kingdom of heaven.

We need Jesus' righteousness _____ to our account, to qualify us not on the basis of our own goodness, but of His, to become citizens of the kingdom of heaven. His perfect righteousness that far _____ the righteousness of any other. And we need a new righteousness of our own, worked into our hearts and worked out in our lives by the power and grace of Christ; the righteousness that _____ everyone who now lives as a citizen of the Kingdom of heaven.