Series: Do You See What I See?

December 3, 2017

**God Came to Know Me!**

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:2; Isaiah 9:6

***Come up with an opening bumper music video that incorporates “Do You See What I See”?***

**Intro:** There is a Christmas Song titled, “Do You Hear What I Hear?” But the second line of the song says, “Do You See What I See?”

That’s the line that got stuck in my head as I was thinking about our Christmas series this year.

As we go through this Christmas season - we come to the end of another year and prepare for a year to come - do we see what God wants us to see?

Do we see what God wants us to see

* For our lives
* For our families
* For our ministries
* For our church

I continually want to see what God wants me to see. I believe the Christmas story will help us see what God wants us to see.

Several of the Old Testament books of the Bible were written by prophets - another name for prophet was “seer” - God gave them the ability to see things in the spiritual realm that others did not see.

They saw the will of God - the purpose of God - the plan of God - they saw what God needed to say to the people in that time - sometimes they saw the future -

Isaiah 7:14 - All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).

Prophecies often have a meaning for the time in which they are spoken, as well as a meaning for a future time -

When these words were spoken, the nation of Assyria was growing in power. They were becoming the world power of the time. Syria and Israel were joining together to form an alliance and they wanted Judah to join them …

So, God sends Isaiah to the King of Judah and tells him not to fear - He tells the King that the invasion that was feared will never happen.

God protected His people in Judah!

God said He would give them a sign to prove His promise was true - He told the King to ask for any sign he wanted and to make it as difficult as he wanted.

The king suddenly got spiritual and said, “I don’t need a sign!”

God said, “No sign? All right then - I’ll give you a sign! A virgin will conceive a child!”

God looked far beyond the present time and saw a much greater deliverance that was needed - not the deliverance of a nation from an enemy power - but deliverance of the human race from it’s own destruction by sin!

Matthew quotes this verse as being fulfilled in the coming of Christ -

Matthew 1:22-23 - All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

God knew His people - He wanted His people to know Him! God wanted His people to know that He had a great plan for them! The same is true for us!

**Big Idea: God came to be with us because He wants us to know Him!**

The first purpose of our church is to help people come to Know God.

God has a specific plan for your life - it’s a shame that many people never find out what that is. Jesus came so we could know it! This church exists so people can know God and know His plan for their lives!

Paul prayed:

Ephesians 1:17-18 NIV - I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

He wants you to know Him and to know His purpose for your life!

He wants you to know Him intimately and personally - not just know about Him the way you know about famous people … but you don’t really know them …

Matthew 1:24-25 - When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. But he did not have sexual relations with her until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:24-25 ESV - When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 7:22-23 - On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’

Same word …

Many people will be in church all year long - doing all kinds of things that seem spiritual - many will be in church during this Christmas season - but many will never come to really know God in the way He wants to know them -

He came in Jesus to live with us - When Jesus left He sent the Holy Spirit to come inside of us - be one with us! The intimacy of marriage in this life is an illustration of the intimacy God wants with us and He desires that intimacy to last forever!

Imagine this - the infinite Creator-God of the universe wants to know you in this intimate way!

We will talk about this in great detail today and the first Sunday of every month in our Growth Track …

Isaiah talked about seeing more -

Isaiah 9:2 - The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

Jesus coming fulfilled this -

Matthew 4:13-16 - He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah: “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.”

Isaiah 9:6 - For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Do you see what I see? Do you see that God came to know you?

**> Do you know that He came to be with you?**

You never have to be alone!

He told Moses, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Also Joshua …

Matthew 28:20 - …And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Psalm 46:1 NIV - God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

I love the words to this song by Matt Redman:

*Standing on this mountaintop*

*Looking just how far we've come*

*Knowing that for every step*

*You were with us*

*Kneeling on this battle ground*

*Seeing just how much You've done*

*Knowing every victory*

*Is Your power in us*

*Scars and struggles on the way*

*But with joy our hearts can say*

*Yes, our hearts can say*

*Never once did we ever walk alone*

*Never once did You leave us on our own*

*You are faithful, God, You are faithful*

*Never once did we ever walk alone*

*Never once did You leave us on our own*

*You are faithful, God, You are faithful*

*You are faithful, God, You are faithful*

In Jesus God came to Know You - God came to be with you!

**> Do you know that He is a Wonderful Counselor?**

*He’s more wonderful than my mind can conceive*

*He’s more wonderful than my heart can believe*

*He goes beyond my highest hopes and fondest dreams*

*He’s everything that my soul every longed for*

*Everything He promised and so much more*

*More than amazing, more than marvelous*

*More than miraculous could ever be*

*He’s more than wonderful*

*That’s what Jesus is to me!*

I need His counsel! I need His advice! I get confused! There are so many times I don’t know what to do!

I go to Him! I listen! I read His word! He does speak - He leads through His Word. He leads through the wise counsel of godly people.

He came to know us and give us His wisdom -

James 1:5 - If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

**> Do you know that He is the Mighty God?**

The existence of Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem -

John 1:1-4 - In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

John 1:14 - So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.

He has always existed! He created everything there is! And He came to know you! He wants you to know Him!

**> Do you know that He is the Everlasting Father?**

You may have had an awful earthly father, so you want nothing to do with God if He’s going to be a father -

God is greater than any earthly father -

He is a Good Good Father! He is a Father of Love!

Your father may have abandoned you -

Psalm 68:4-6 - …His name is the Lord— rejoice in his presence! Father to the fatherless, defender of widows— this is God, whose dwelling is holy. God places the lonely in families; he sets the prisoners free and gives them joy…

He loves you! He wants to heal all your hurts! He wants to accept you into His family!

Sometimes the Christian family can be almost as dysfunctional as the families of the world - but we have a great Father!

**> Do you know that He is the Prince of Peace?**

So many lack peace at Christmastime -

He loves you - He wants to know you - He wants you to know Him - and He wants to give you peace -

John 14:27 - I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.

Matthew Henry: When Christ was about to leave the world He made out His will. His soul He committed to His Father; His body He bequeathed to Joseph, to be decently interred; His clothes fell to the soldiers; His mother He left to the car of John: but what should He leave His poor disciples? They had left all for Him! Silver and gold He had none, but he left them that which was infinitely better, His peace.

Isaiah 26:3 -

It’s not the kind of peace the world gives! Nothing in this world can give the kind of peace that He gives!

The world can’t give it and the world can’t take it away! It is beyond the world’s understanding!

Philippians 4:7 - …you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

John 16:33 -

Romans 5:1 - Therefore, since we have been made right in God’s sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

What He did -

He came -

He went to the cross …

God wants to know you - We want you to know God -

That happens when we come to know Jesus - Jesus is God come in human flesh -

Find out a lot more about this at Growth Track today -

Romans 3:23 -

Romans 5:8 -

Romans 6:23 -

Realize that God has not been first place in our life, and ask Him to forgive our sins -

1st John 1:9 -

Believe that Jesus died to pay for your sins and that He rose from the dead and is alive today.

Accept God’s free gift of salvation - Don’t try to earn it.

Invite Jesus to come into your life and be the Lord of your life.

**You can do that right now.**