

Carols sermon 2014

Luke 2 – the shepherds

“We have a Saviour” - The worst thing about Christmas

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/topics/christmas/6834478/Bah-humbug-the-10-worst-things-about-Christmas.html>

We often ask the question: what’s the BEST thing about Christmas. But what about the worst thing?!

Christmas trees? Shopping? Buying presents? Wrapping presents? Singing carols?! Office parties? Santa?

If there was one thing you could get rid of at Christmas, what would it be?

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- This is the Kinchrome ultima workshop. It’s a toolbox, with a TV, radio, DVD, CD, AND a mini fridge. And it retails for a mere \$2,999!

This is what I would get rid of at Christmas. Things I really want but can’t have! Isn’t it hard going shopping and seeing all these things that you know you can’t buy!

Christmas is a time where we think a lot about what we want and what we need. Do I NEED that toolbox? Or do I just want it? Do I NEED more socks? Do I NEED more chocolate, or wine?

- Do I NEED a pair of moon shoes?
- Do I NEED a toilet mug?!

There’s a fine line between need and want. If we were honest, there is very little we really NEED. Food. Water. Clothes. Shelter. Human contact. That’s really about it. All the rest is just extra stuff we like to add on to life to make it more interesting, or more comfortable.

And maybe that sometimes sums up our Christmases – interesting and comfortable. Is that what we’re aiming for? Do we really just want to make this Christmas interesting or comfortable?

Is Christmas about the comfort of food and family, or the interest of presents?

What are we aiming for? What are YOU aiming for this Christmas? A holiday? A break? A time with family?

I wonder if you can think back to last Christmas. How is this Christmas different to last year? What has changed over the last year for you to make this Christmas different in some way? (Testimony reflection?)

Each year our needs change. We all get older. Kids get older. Parents get older. You used to buy mum and dad peanut brittle, but now they can’t chew that any more! You used to buy the kids water pistols, but now they want \$300 video games. Things

change. We change. Circumstances change. Relationships change. Needs change. Wants change. Beliefs change.

But does Christmas change?

Luke 2 tells us that God sent a Saviour. For us. The angels says to the shepherd that “today, in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” Why is that so important? Why is it so important that we’re still celebrating that 2000 years later? Why do we NEED a savior, when surely a Barbeque with a TV and fridge would probably get us by?!

And here’s the question to ask: What do I need saving from? Why do I need a savior? What danger am I in that I need saving?

And that is the ultimate question. If I need saving, then I need a Saviour. If I don’t need saving, then I don’t need a Saviour.

But God says we do. Which is why He sent Jesus.

So what does God think we need saving from?

Toilet mugs, moon shoes and TV barbeques. That’s what we need saving from. The world. The stuff of the world. The stuff that owns us. The stuff that becomes so important in our lives that we forget about God himself. The stuff that becomes our focus.

But Jesus came not only to save us from this “stuff”, but to save us from ourselves. You see, that is the main distraction for us – ourselves. Our comfort. Our independence. Our desires. Our wants. That is what sin is – focusing on ourselves and the things of this world, rather than God himself, the creator of all things. We need to be saved from our sinfulness – our desire to put ourselves first.

And so God, the creator, came into the world himself, as a baby. As one of us. He came to experience first hand, as a human, all that we experience. He came to be in the world of desire and wants. And he came to rescue us from this world.

What do we need at Christmas? God says that we DO need a Saviour. Someone to rescue us from this world. In the midst of all the great stuff of Christmas, this is a great time to have a think about how your own world is changing – how your life is changing. How the needs of you and your family are changing.

And how the simple message of Christmas doesn’t change. It is still about God’s Saviour for us.

So here is what I think would be the worst thing about Christmas –
Getting what we want, but not getting what we need.
(Pray)