

Series: Christmas Stories

Part 2: Joy

Sunday Dec. 6, 2015

1. The True Meaning of Christmas

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pn10FF-FQfs>

2. *And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night* (Lk. 2:8).

3. *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified* (2:9).

4. *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people"* (2:10).

5. What is the gospel? <https://vimeo.com/32459389>

6.
 - a. We are like our King when we love one another.
 - b. We are like our King when we restore relationships with one another.
 - c. We are like our King when we relate meaningfully with each other.

7. Dr. Brene Brown: Sympathy vs. Empathy

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Evvgu369Jw

8. Qualities of empathy:

- i. perspective taking
- ii. non-judgment
- iii. recognizing emotions
- iv. communicating emotions

9. *This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger* (2: 12)

Study Notes

DISCUSSION

1. What gives you joy at Christmas?

2. What are some things that you've done to try to retain the true meaning of Christmas?

INTO THE BIBLE

3. Read Lk. 1:46-55: *Mary's Song* or what is otherwise known as the *Magnificat*.

Notice what v. 45 says just before this passage. How does it relate to vv. 46-55?

If you knew nothing else about Mary apart from this passage what would you make of her?

Why do you think God chose her to bear His Son?

What would be the lyric in your song about God? What words would you use? What stories would you tell?

APPLICATION

4. Review the video Pastor Rob used to help us think and talk about the gospel. What did you like about it? What might you add or take away?

5. Pastor Rob talked about making the gospel practical by loving people, forgiving people, and relating meaningfully to people. Is there one of these gospel pieces that you feel called to do?

6. Review Dr. Brene Brown's short video. Talk about the qualities of empathy. Which of these qualities would you most like to/need to develop?