

SERMON REFLECTIONS

Bethlehem

Matthew 2:4-18 | 11 December 2022 | Rev Dr Aaron Tay

Sermon Reflection Questions

1. Read through Matthew 2 (aloud as a DG). Pray for the Holy Spirit's inspiration and share with each other spiritual lessons/truths that you have discerned from this passage.
2. The first time we read of Bethlehem in the Bible is in Genesis 35:19 – where it speaks of the death and burial of Rachel, Jacob's wife, in Bethlehem.

Rachel is a symbol of the Great Price that one would pay for Love. Think of a story in the Bible (besides the sacrifice of Christ) where a great price is paid for love (it need not be only love between a man and a woman). Alternatively, you may share a story you have heard of a great price that has been paid for love.

Have you paid a (big) price for something/someone you love? What do you hope you would receive in return?

God/Jesus paid the Great(est) price for the human race. What ought to be the response for the human race? What ought to be the response of those who received the Blessing, as a result of the sacrifice?

Our Vision

To be disciples of Jesus Christ

Our Mission

We exist to make disciples who love God, love one another and love the lost



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3. Bethlehem was also the town where Naomi and Ruth stayed (after they returned from Moab), and where Ruth married Boaz and bore their son Obed, who was the grandfather of (King) David.

In this story, we learn of the two theological truths by which God blesses people – namely Redemption and Adoption (Ruth 4:7-10; 14-17).

We know that one of the main things we are redeemed from is Sin. Discuss what does it mean to be redeemed from Sin (you might want to consider the penalty, power, and presence of sin).

Are there any other areas that Christ has redeemed us from?

What does it mean that we are adopted into God's family? What is the significance and blessing of that? (Think of an orphan who has been adopted into a loving family – what would change for that orphan?)

4. Finally, Bethlehem was not always a place of peace, even though the Prince of Peace was born there. During the time of King David, there was once when three of his loyal soldiers were willing to sacrifice their lives, in response to David's desire to drink from the well at Bethlehem (2 Samuel 23:14-17). In return, King David presented that precious water in worship to God.

This story encourages us to give of our best in worship to God, indeed, to be fruitful (Bethlehem is also known as "Ephrathah" – which means fruitfulness).

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John 15:8 encourages us to be fruitful for Jesus – “This is to My Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be My disciples.”

Share of a character in the Bible who was fruitful for God/Jesus.

How can we be fruitful for Jesus?

What have you done in your discipleship journey that has borne fruit?

What are you doing now (or you hope to do in 2023) which you pray will bear spiritual fruit?

Blessed Advent and Christmas to you, my sisters and brothers.

Shalom

Pastor Aaron Tay

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