



SERMON OUTLINE

NOTES

I. ADVENT IS A TIME WHEN WE CELEBRATE FAITH, HOPE, LOVE, JOY...

- A. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of God sending Jesus Christ into the world and the return of Christ at his second coming
- B. The incarnation (God sending Jesus Christ into the world) was the ultimate act of his love for us
- C. God didn't send Jesus into the world because he needed us, but because we needed him, we needed God with us

II. RELATIONSHIP BROKEN, RELATIONSHIP RESTORED

- A. It was God's desire from the beginning to be with his people
- B. God remained faithful to his covenant promises even though his people throughout the OT were unfaithful and turned their back on him
- C. God promised a restored relationship through a new covenant
 - 1. Reunited Israel (Jer 31:31)
 - 2. His Word written on our heart (Jer 31:33)
 - 3. A personal relationship with him through his Spirit (Jer 31:33-34)
 - 4. Permanent forgiveness (Jer 31:34)
- D. This new covenant would be established by God sending his only Son into the world to shed his blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt 26:28)

III. GOD SO LOVED US THAT HE SENT HIS ONLY SON

- A. God sent his only Son into the world that we might live through him (1John 4:9)
 - 1. God sent his only Son that we might be reconciled, justified, forgiven, adopted, eternally secure (1 Cor 5:21, John 10:27-30)
- B. God sent his only Son into the world that he might die for us (1 John 4:10)
 - 1. God initiated this love, we didn't love God or deserve the Son
 - 2. God sent his only Son to be the propitiation for our sins
- C. God's love for us inspires our love for others (1 John 4:11-12)

JEREMIAH 31:2-3

Thus says the Lord:

"The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, 3 the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

JEREMIAH 31:12-14

They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.

13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

14 I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, declares the Lord."

SERMON REFLECTIONS

1. How did Israel's faithfulness to God compare with God's faithfulness to Israel? Likewise, how does your faithfulness to God typically compare with His faithfulness to you? What does God's faithfulness to His people reveal about His character?
2. Do you dedicate much time to thinking about how much God loves you and the different ways he has demonstrated that love for you? Why or why not?
3. How did God show His love for us in the first Advent? What about the second Advent that is still to come?
4. Does God's love for you affect your love for others? How?
5. What are some practical ways that we can show our neighbors and one another the same kind of sacrificial love that God has shown to us in Christ?