

## A Purpose Driven Christmas

KSBC 12/07/08

Luke 18:31-34

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21

*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.*

Luke 2:11

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.*

Luke 19:10

**INTRO** Jesus accomplished what he came to do. Jesus fulfilled the purpose for which he was sent. Jesus satisfied every objective of the mission assigned to him by God the Father. As the prophets and angels announced before and at his birth, Jesus Christ was sent to this planet to complete a mission. He came to do something and he did it. Our desire these Sundays leading up to Christmas is to identify clearly why Jesus came and encourage one another to celebrate Jesus birth in a purpose driven manner. We celebrate in various ways as those whose lives have been transformed because Jesus is able to say, 'mission accomplished.'

The attraction and success of the 'purpose driven' phenomena is found in its profound simplicity. Be intentional. Know why you exist and do it. Cut away the stuff that both drains your resources and frustrates your mission. The message of the purpose driven church is to intentionally do what God has created us to do. Our church can be driven by programs, tradition, finances, seekers, felt needs or the expectations of the members rather than being driven by the mission of leading people in a growing relationship with Christ. Likewise, the message of a purpose driven Christmas is to intentionally celebrate what Christ came to do and why he was born.

Jesus summarizes quite clearly and simply his mission as he nears the end of his earthly life in the well known statement recorded in Luke 19:10. His perspective is simple and compelling, he is here to do one thing, find and rescue lost people. Over the next let's celebrate intentionally using this statement as our guide.

### Read Luke 18:31-19:10

Let's intentionally celebrate Jesus coming as Savior by . . .

18:31-34 Raising awareness and appreciation for Jesus death and resurrection.

18:35-43 Giving credit to God for compassionately delivering people from darkness through Jesus.

19:1-10 Receiving and responding to the gift of Christ with joy and generosity.

Our assignment this morning is the first section of this passage, Jesus prediction of his upcoming suffering, death and resurrection. Note the following observations that help us connect this section to the storyline of Luke and the immediate context.

1. Jesus often redirects and reminds his disciples about his coming suffering. 31

9:22

9:43-45

12:50

13:32-33

17:25

2. Jesus explains in detail what his coming suffering includes. 32-33

3. The disciples could not understand how these things fit together for Jesus. 34

Could not connect suffering, death and mission of Christ.

Were prevented from understanding these things.

Understanding/eyes opened L8:10, 16-17; L24:31

### **Six true talking points that will raise awareness and appreciation for Jesus death and resurrection:**

Just like Jesus, you can cut through the distractions of the holiday and celebrate God's great love in Christ with purpose by raising awareness, attention and appreciation for Jesus' death and resurrection.

### **Understanding and appreciating Jesus death and resurrection is essential to:**

#### **1. Understanding your bible.**

'everything written by the prophets'                      Psa 2                      Isa. 50:6                      Isa 53

Shedding of blood; sacrificial system; Lamb of God

L24:45

#### **2. Explaining the good news of the gospel.**

L9:22; Matt.16 – the core of Gospel is the announcement that Jesus is the Christ

L24:46-47                      Jesus death is foundation of repentance and forgiveness

1Cor.15:1-3

### **3. Preaching that changes lives.**

Acts 2:22-39

Acts 3:11-23

Acts 5:29-32

1Corinthians 1:23; 2:2

### **4. Living a godly life.**

Luke 9:21-26

Phil. 2                      example of humble service

1Peter 2:21-24   example of suffering

### **5. Satisfying God's just wrath.**

Romans 3:25

Isa. 53:4-6

### **6. Your eyes being opened to the glory of God.**

Luke 24:25-27,31, 44-49

2Cor. 4:4-6

Blind beggar; Zacchaeus

### **Purpose driven celebration – put the pieces together!**

1. Talk about Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. Celebrate Jesus death and resurrection.
3. Believe in Jesus death and resurrection.
4. Learn more about Jesus death and resurrection.