

Taking a Fresh Look @ Christmas

WEEK FOUR: GLORY

LUKE 2:1-15

Key points

Think back through the message.
What stuck out?

YOU & REALITY

vs. 1-2

A 100km journey - on foot and pregnant
vs. 3-5

vs. 6-8

Mary and Joseph are compliant people
Two kinds of reality

vs. 9-10

(vs. 9) *“stood by their side”* or *“stood before them”*

What is glory? - *Something that is greater than my reality*

2 Corinthians 3:18

Which reality is the most real to you?

vs. 11-15

“let us go”; *“let us tell”*; *“let us see more”*;
“let us be active”

Three things that happen to a life without glory:

1. Things become idols
2. Possibilities become plodding
3. Rebellion begins to look like freedom

1 Peter 2:20

How to have a glory-filled life:

1. Yield fully to God
2. Focus on the glory
3. Rejoice in the glory of God

Christmas Glory Revealed

This Advent season as we remember and celebrate the immaculate conception, the incarnation, the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, our Saviour and King...let's also remember that the entrance of Jesus into this world marked an unparalleled revelation of the Glory of God!

“A voice cries”: Isaiah foretells of glory

- Without calling him by name Isaiah wonderfully describes Jesus as the glory of the Lord.
- Read Isaiah 40:3-5

“Show me your glory”: Moses' prayer

- Moses was so enthralled with God that in the thirty-third chapter of Exodus, he asked the Lord a very bold question.
- Read Exodus 33:18

“We have seen his glory”: The glory of God among us

- The promise of God through the prophet Isaiah was that all flesh would see the glory of the Lord together.
- Read John 1:14

“The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ”: A sovereign act

- In Jesus, we have not just the glory and the goodness of God declared like it was before Moses, but we have it revealed in a person.
- Read 2 Corinthians 4:6
- This sovereign act of shining light into our hearts is the reason some conceived plots against Jesus and others clung to him. When God acts in this way toward us we realize something that has been true since before the beginning of time - that Jesus is the most beautiful and glorious person there could ever be!

A Better Prayer

If this is true of you this Christmas season then you are a small part of that unnamed group of people that Isaiah prophesied about who would see the glory of God revealed. We no longer have to pray, as Moses did, “show me your glory.” We have a far superior prayer, “Show me, Jesus!”

As you spend time reflecting on the Saviour this Christmas, be sure to thank him for sending his Son into that manger where the first few people saw him, then to the villages and towns around Jerusalem where more people saw him, then to the cross whereby his death God makes many see. Remember the day God opened the eyes of your heart to see the glory of God in the face of Jesus and be thankful. Praise him with the heavenly hosts and be ever thankful that God revealed his glory to you in his Son, Jesus who is the Christ.

