

RIGHT ON TIME
Luke 1 selected; Galatians 4:4-5
December 8, 2013

INTRODUCTION

- a. Christmas is only a couple of weeks away
- b. At this time of the year words like “anticipation,” “expectation,” and “presents,” continue to flood our minds
- c. We try to guess what someone will give us; we have that one special present we really want and can't wait to open or we want to buy the perfect gift for someone and can't wait to see their reaction
- d. Have you wanted something so much that you couldn't sleep or think of anything else. It almost consumed all your waking hours
- e. Sometimes we get anxious and want to make it come sooner - that gets us into trouble
 1. We search and peek and sometimes we spoil the surprise
- f. Have you ever received what it was you wanted only to find that it was not exactly what you expected and more difficult than you thought.
- g. It is this thought that I want us to consider this morning.

I. PREPARATION

a. The Father reminds us of His PROMISE

1. The **promise of a Messiah** (Deliverer) is throughout the Old Testament:
 - a. To Adam in the garden
 - b. To Abraham in the Covenant God made with him
 - c. Through Moses and the Law
 - d. To David and the promise of an eternal throne
 - e. From the Prophets comes the constant pointing to a Messiah
2. **In times of trouble the people of Israel looked for a messiah**, for one to lead them, we saw that in the book of Judges
3. Now **God speaks to Elizabeth and Zechariah** - Their son will prepare the way for the Messiah's entrance to the world
4. The **Lord speaks to a young girl, Mary** - She will give birth to the Messiah
5. **God also speaks to Joseph**, Mary's husband-to-be and the earthly father of the Messiah, Jesus

b. The Historical Setting

1. **Antiochus Epiphanes**: The Seleucid king occupying Israel
 - a. Sold High Priesthood to highest bidder
 1. It was bought and claimed by one not entitled to be the High Priest
 - b. When this person is rejected by the people in 168 BC Antiochus:
 1. Made Sabbath keeping and Circumcision punishable by death
 2. Instituted Pagan sacrifices and Prostitution in the Temple
 3. Forced all to eat unclean foods
2. **A rebellion broke out**:
 - a. The Maccabees led the Hasidim (men of the covenant) in a guerrilla warfare revolt
 - b. They defeated Antiochus and cleansed the temple
3. **Then came Rome**:
 - a. Roads connected city to city and eventually all cities to Rome
 - b. Roman laws protected the rights of citizens
 - c. Roman Soldiers guarded the peace
 - d. Due to Greek and Roman conquests Latin and Greek were known throughout the empire.

e. There was also the Zealots - rooted in the Maccabees wanting to rid Israel of Roman rule

II. THE FULLNESS OF TIME

a. It is into this world that **Jesus was sent at the RIGHT TIME**

1. **Read Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)** *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

b. **Paul is Quick to point out that Jesus is both GOD and MAN**

Gal 4:4

c. **In Galatians 4:4-5 Paul tells us:**

1. **Who** came - **God's Son**
2. **When** He came - **In the fullness of time**
3. **How** He came - **Born of a woman**
4. **Why** He came - **To redeem those under the law**

d. **The Israelites expected a ruler to come and rid the land of Roman rule.** They expected to be in places of power and to be served

e. **But Jesus came as a baby** not to be a political leader but rather to set people free from the bondage to sin and death.

III. JESUS WAS NOT WHAT WAS EXPECTED

a. They expected a **Military King** (like David) got a **Servant**

b. They expected to **rule** - told to **serve**

c. They expected to **overthrow enemies** - told to **Love them**

d. They expected things to be as they **used to be** - told must have **life changed**

e. **Because He did not meet their expectations they rejected Jesus**

1. Scripture says, "he came to his own and His own received Him not."

IV. WHAT DO YOU EXPECT

a. **What is it that your heart longs for:**

1. Forgiveness
2. Peace
3. Freedom from Sin and slavery to it
4. Freedom from addictions of all kinds
5. Gainful employment
6. A spouse, a husband or wife to share your life with
7. Healing for yourself or someone close to you

b. **For too long we have fostered the thought that The Savior comes to make our lives easier or to give us what we want.**

c. **The Savior has come, though, with a different message**

1. His message is to take up your cross and follow Him
2. Your life must be changed - No longer "same as usual" must be different

d. **His promise is "If you will follow He will make you what and who He wants you to be"**

1. This week I read an article titled, "**I Don't Wait Anymore**"

a. It was about a young woman's faith journey and the "purity vow" she took as a teen in the "True Love Waits" campaign at her church. She decided not to wait any longer. Before you stop listening, she was not talking about sex or getting married.

b. Her point was that the emphasis on "waiting" was misplaced. Her understanding was that you did all the right things and then God would reward you with a husband.

c. Do you see how that misses the point. The point is that Jesus is enough. I do what he says because I love him not because of some reward he might bring in the future.

d. I am no longer waiting for God to act in the future but an enjoying his presence each and every moment.

e. If those things come so be it but I will honor God by being who he has called me to be.

2. What are you waiting for?

e. The Lord wants you to enjoy His presence and to follow Him on your life's journey

V. THE SAVIOR NOW WAITS FOR YOU

a. The world waited in great anticipation for a Messiah and at the RIGHT TIME HE CAME

b. Jesus came as a Baby in a Manger and grew to be the Christ of the Cross - Our Messiah

c. Now He waits for you - **Will you come to Him RIGHT NOW**

1. Share a Prayer to receive Christ

d. He may not be what you expected but He is exactly what you need

BOW WITH ME IN PRAYER

11:00 "OFFERING OF WORSHIP"