

Do You See

LOVE

God's Plan for Us

READ: MATTHEW 1:18-25

INTRODUCTION

The Nativity of Jesus Christ is a profound expression of God's love for humanity. The story of Jesus' birth, as recorded in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, reveals the depth of God's affection and desire to reconcile humanity to Himself. We see Joseph and his love for Mary. Mary and her love for God and her future Son. We even see the love from the Magi towards the coming King in Matthew chapter 2. There is love surrounding the birth of Jesus and that is an image that we see throughout His whole life on earth as well.

God had (and has) shown from the beginning of time that He loved humanity. The Old Testament is full of His faithfulness and His love for His people. He made effort after effort to bring them back to Him to experience His love and His mercy so they might have fellowship with Him. It was made perfect in the coming of His Son Jesus. In the moment that Jesus came, He showed all of the world that God was willing to meet us at our level in order to restore relationship to Him. There is no greater love than to give your life for your friends. (John 15:13)

Jesus came for a specific purpose; to die on a cross. He came so that, in His death and resurrection, all of humanity might be restored to the Father. This is His purpose and while we experience the gift of that purpose, it is also important to remember what it means. It means that God loves us. He loves us more than we could imagine and more that we give Him credit for. Many times we are tempted to think God has left us behind but it is important to remember that even if the world crumbles around us, God's love for us is pure and holy. He loves us perfectly and will never leave us. (Matthew 28:20)

ADVENT

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does Jesus' birth show God's love for us? What does God expect in return?
2. What do we see in this passage concerning Joseph's love? Mary's? How can we show love to one another as they did?
3. What does it mean for God to come in the form of a human? How does that show love? Why is that so significant?
4. Read John 15:13. What does this verse imply is the greatest form of love? How did Jesus express that love?
5. How can we love others the way Christ has loved us? How can we keep each other accountable to loving in this way?

WRAP UP

Love cannot be more perfected than in the instance of Christ and His love for us. There is no better expression than to have God come down to earth, live a perfect life, die on a cross for sins He didn't commit, and raise again three days later to provide access to the Father and to eternal life in Him. This love is unmatched. We can only express our gratitude and try to love others in a small reflection of the same attitude.