

Living With Advent

LOVE

PART 2

Advent 2022

READ MATTHEW 1:18-25

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' birth was not just the confirmation of many prophecies and not just the coming of the Messiah. It was an expression of love for the people that He cares so much about. Jesus came to give us hope, peace and love. We can see through His life and His death how we are to be living our lives. We are to love one another and sacrifice for one another. We are not to live selfishly or for ourselves but, rather, for one another's benefit. We are to prefer one another above ourselves. When this happens, we see God move among us and can see how beautiful it can be to die to self and live to Christ.

1 Peter 4:7-9 describes this love as one that will cover up a multitude of sins. It is one that comes without complaint and with no strings attached. This can be difficult when we have a high view of ourselves or, when we do not particularly like the person we are called to love. We are called to put our own desires and preferences aside to serve and love our neighbor as ourselves. This is so difficult and yet so key in serving the Lord who came to earth to show us how to live and love.

Jesus loved perfectly and it is not realistic to think that we will always have that perfect love for one another but, it is important to practice. We are to train ourselves to love one another. We work, strive and struggle to get better at loving each other. Why? Because He first loved us. Because He showed us how to live our lives and when we claim to be His children, we must also show that we can obey His commands. (John 13:34-35) This passage is so key when trying to understand how we are to love each other. People are watching. Do you love the way you should?

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What ways can you see God's love in this passage other than Jesus' birth? How can we interact with God's love like Joseph?
2. How did Jesus coming to earth show us God's love? Why is it important? What should be our response in our daily lives to this love?
3. Read 1 Peter 4:7-9. Why is it important that we love? How can we train ourselves to love better? What steps can you take to be accountable to loving others?
4. Do you struggle with pride? How can we learn to humble ourselves more? Why is this so key in learning how to love?
5. Read John 13:34-35. What is the command? Why is it important that we obey this command? How can we better practice obeying this command of Jesus?

WRAP UP

When we better understand the reasoning for Christ coming to earth and living a perfect life to die on a cross for sins He didn't commit, we can better understand that we are extremely loved by Him and that, in turn, helps us to better understand how we are to love others around us. This is important because we are commanded by Christ to love one another. We have to practice this love. We have to train our minds and bodies in this love. It doesn't come easy but, it is worth the struggle to be able to love as He loves.