

Lent
2024

COME & SEE WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE

Welcome to the Lent 2024 series of devotionals.

In keeping with our theme of come and see what the Lord has done, we will focus on scriptures from the New Testament. We will be examining instances in the life of Jesus where those encounters changed the lives of people Jesus encountered. We will also look at how their encounters apply to our lives.

Lent is a time for reflection. During this time, we are given many opportunities to consider our lives and our lives in Christ. The people we encounter, the places we go, and how people see us live our lives can be part and parcel of our walk-in faith. Periodically, we should consider how our lives are going and whether we are on the right path. That right path is being laid out for us by the Lord.

Pam and I hope you are blessed by your time in reflection and study of His word during this season of Lent.

Leaning on Jesus
Forest & Pam Holmes

All scriptural references are from the English Standard Version of the Holy Bible.

Much of the research for these devotionals comes from the Zondervan illustrated Commentary.

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It's a good day in Christ,

It has been a mere seven weeks since we celebrated the birth of the Christ Child, yet here we are at the beginning of Lent 2024. Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent, coincides this year with Valentine's Day. Some may find this to be an odd pairing of dates. But, considering who Christ is and what He represents, we will find this a natural pairing. Jesus, fully God and fully man, represents the love of God incarnate.

Today, we will return to what is traditionally an Advent set of verses. In Luke 2:8 -12, we see an angel of the Lord announcing the birth of the Christ Child to the shepherds. In doing so, we will find our first clue of the love our Father God has for all humanity. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Love came down that day. A love so deep it is unfathomable to you and me. Sinful by nature, separated from God, humanity needed, and still needs, a Savior. Christ the Lord is that Savior. He, and He alone, could right the terrible wrong first initiated by the first Adam. Today, we are redeemed by that same love, just as the world was at the time of Jesus' birth. In the story of the shepherds and the angels, there is one more bit of information we can glean to guide us in our day-to-day lives.

From Luke 2:13-14, we read, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Today and every day, we can share that good news and glorify the God who loved us so deeply that He came down from heaven to save us. When the world around us can see and hear that good news, we, as the angels did, can spread the word that there is a Savior. We can point the way to finding the Savior many desperately need. During Lent, we reflect on what the Lord has done. Don't we want others to have that same joy in their lives?

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