



## WHY CHRISTMAS CAME

Josh Hawley, Pastor

December 21, 2014

### *Isaiah 53*

**The Incarnation:** God became man and entered human history

(Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3)

### **The Promise in Isaiah 52:13-53: The Suffering Servant**

**Why did Jesus come? What is God revealing to us about Himself in Jesus?**

- Jesus reveals God's humility by taking a "great demotion"
- Jesus reveals God's compassion by choosing to be punished for our sins

- Jesus reveals God's authority by supernaturally fulfilling Old Testament prophecies
- Jesus reveals God's power to give us a real & everlasting hope

### **Next Steps**

- I am committing to follow Jesus for the first time today.
- I am re-committing to follow Jesus today.
- I will memorize Isaiah 53:5-6 this week.
- I will plan a specific time to focus on Jesus Christ & why He came (with others if possible) on December 24 or 25.



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### Daily Devotional Plan – The Christmas Story (and beyond) in Matthew

Day 1 – Matthew 1:1-17

Day 2 – Matthew 1:18-25

Day 3 – Matthew 2:1-12

Day 4 – Matthew 2:13-18

Day 5 – Matthew 2:19-23

Day 6 – Matthew 3:1-12

Day 7 – Matthew 3:13-17

To go deeper: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper/journal/laptop/etc.:

- What did you hear? (*What did God say to you as you read the Scriptures for the day?*)
- What do you think? (*What does it mean to you, how does it apply to your life, and what difference will it make to you?*)
- What will you do? (*What action step will you take? How will you think differently? How will you live differently?*)
- Now talk to God (*Put your thoughts into prayer. It could be a prayer of gratitude or praise. It could be a prayer of confession or a request for God's help. It's up to you. But take a minute each day to write a prayer response to what you read in the Scriptures.*)

## LIFEGROUP QUESTIONS December 21, 2014

**Lesson Aim:** To continue learning about who Jesus is, how He is the promise of Christmas, and how the fulfillment of prophecy regarding His coming can change our life.

**Icebreaker:** What is something that you look forward to each Christmas Season?

1. **Read Isaiah 53:4-6.** Jesus came to redeem us from our pain, suffering, sins, and iniquities. What is something that you have been struggling with this Christmas holiday season that you can put before the Lord in prayer?
2. The promise of Jesus also says that He came to bring us peace, to heal us physically, emotionally, spiritually, and to move us from being lost to found. What is something that you are thankful for this Christmas holiday season as you think of these promises of Christ?
3. **Read Philippians 2:6-8.** Why do you think that Christ chose to come as a servant to people instead of coming as a ruler or an emperor? What lesson can we learn from this example?
4. **Re-read Isaiah 53:7** and then read **Mark 14:60-61** and **1 Peter 2:22-23**. It was foretold that the Messiah would be silent and then that prophecy was proven true in Mark and Peter. Why do you think that Jesus chose to remain silent? What is a lesson that we can learn from this example?
5. **Re-read Isaiah 53:12.** Jesus gave his life so as to be a substitutionary atonement for our sins. What kind of hope can we take from this? What type of responsibility does this sacrifice by Christ put upon us?