



PART 1: HOPE IN THE DARK

Sermon Notes

Text: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Intro:

Advent means “coming” or “arrival”

Galatians 4:4

The Book of Isaiah

- 700 years before Christ, Isaiah foresaw the first Christmas
- The book covers 700 years of Israel's history, as the monarchy led the people into moral and social decline, resulting in God's judgement and exile.

The Covenant: The people promised to follow God's law. And God promised to bless them in the land he gave them.

A major theme of Isaiah: *God is working out the course of history*

Isaiah 7:9

Gods plans only benefit us when we trust in God's plans.

“The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried.” ~G.K. Chesterton

Proverbs 14:12

Isaiah 8:19-22 - reveals the darkness in Israel & Judah

Darkness = Evil & ignorance

Hope in the Dark

Isaiah 9:2

The world is a dark place and we will never find our way unless Jesus is our light

Isaiah 9:6-7

- 1) Wonderful Counselor
 - A wise king who develops plans of action that make people marvel
- 2) Mighty God
 - A mighty warrior with the ability to carry out his plans of action
- 3) Everlasting Father
 - An enduring, compassionate provider and protector
- 4) Prince of Peace
 - His rule will bring wholeness and wellbeing to individuals and all society

Conclusion:

Matthew 4:12-17 - Jesus fulfills Isaiah's vision

Life Group Discussion

Warm up:

1. When is it ok to start decorating for Christmas? Do you go big? Or are your decorations more modest?
2. What stood out to you about Sunday's sermon? What was interesting? Confusing? Weird? Thought provoking?

Study & Discussion:

1. Have you ever tried reading the book of Isaiah? How did it go? Was it hard to understand? Did Sunday's sermon help you understand the context and history of the book at all? What stood out to you about Isaiah's world? What does a book written 700 years before the first Christmas have to do with Christmas?
2. G.K. Chesterton said "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried." This is the attitude the kings of Israel and Judah had in Isaiah's day. Have you ever found yourself saying, "God's way is too unrealistic"? Maybe you think some of Jesus' teachings seem impossible to follow in your situation? Why is it so natural to think that way?
3. Read John 1:1-18. How does this passage relate to Isaiah 9:2, 6-7? What does John say about "light"? What does it mean?

Application:

1. Read Matthew 4:12-17. Here, Matthew quotes Isaiah, claiming that this moment in Jesus' ministry fulfilled Isaiah's vision. Jesus withdraws to an area populated by gentiles, bringing his "light" to "people living in darkness". v. 17 says that Jesus began to preach "repent" because God's kingdom (the kingdom of Isaiah's vision) was near.
 - In light of the sins and ignorance of Israel and Judah, what do people need to repent of to be a part of God's kingdom and serve God's king (Jesus)? What do you need to repent of?
 - Not trusting God's word?
 - Calling Jesus' teachings "unrealistic"?
 - Being unwilling to share Jesus (light) with those around you?

Prayer:

- Pray for the light of Jesus to give you hope in the darkness

Other Requests

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