

NOTES:



December 17, 19-20, 2009

## MESSAGE NOTES

### **Worthy**

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#### **The Simple Heart of Worship**

***Bob Hasty - Francis Anfuso***

*Luke 2:4-9*

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the **glory of the Lord shone** around them, and they were greatly afraid.

**1. The heart of worship is the message of hope and life that came after 400 yrs of God's silence & in the midst of darkness.**

Spiritual darkness and blindness go hand in hand.

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

## 2. At the heart of worship is a deep gratitude for our salvation.

Dead.

*Ephesians 2:1, NLT*

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins.

Dark.

*Ephesians 5:8, NLT*

For once you were full of darkness

Hopeless.

*Ephesians 2:12, NLT*

You lived in this world without God and without hope.

*Ephesians 2:4, NLT*

But God is so rich in mercy, and He loved us so much, that even though we were dead because of our sins, He gave us life when He raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

## 3. At the heart of worship is Good news and great joy.

*Luke 2:10-11*

Then the angel said to them, “**Do not be afraid**, for behold, **I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people**. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

The word “great” here is the word *megas* in the Greek translation. It has the idea of “mega joy” or super-sized cheerfulness. This good news is exciting because God is bringing about the solution to the sin problem.

Savior – He will save people from their sins.

Christ – “the anointed one” to rule as King

Lord – Speaks of the divine nature of the One who was born; absolute owner.

*Acts 2:21*

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

*I Peter 1:8-9, NLT*

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

***Compared with their grandparents, today's young adults have grown up with much more affluence...less happiness and much greater risk of depression and assorted social pathology...Our becoming much better off over the last four decades has not been accompanied by one iota of increased subjective well-being.***

- Hope College psychologist David G. Myers, PhD, author of the article, which appeared in the *American Psychologist* (Vol. 55, No. 1)

## 4. At the heart of worship is God's love for all people.

*Luke 19:10, NIV*

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

*Romans 15:13, ESV*

May **the God of hope** fill you with **all joy and peace in believing**, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in **hope**.