Luke 1:46-55

November 29, 2015

**Worship Fully**

1. The word Advent means a season of anticipation.
2. Good things emit a good response

*“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.”* **Luke 1:46-47**

1. God challenges the institutions we glorify.

*He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.* **Luke 1:52**

1. Our lives should reflect his promises through whole-hearted worship.

*…just as he promised our ancestors.* **Luke 1:55**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord as I anticipate meeting you,*

*May I worship fully,*

*Spend less, give more,*

*And love all.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

Where is your life can you replace rivalry and jealousy with sentiments of kindness and understanding?

What are the institutions that God is challenging in your life?

Are ready to meet God, not just in death, but in life?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Psalm 145:1-21**
* **Tuesday 2 Peter 1:12-21**
* **Wednesday Matthew 21:23-32**
* **Thursday Jude 1-16**
* **Friday Amos 5:1-17**
* **Saturday Psalm 110:1-7**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

Matthew 2:1-12

December 6, 2015

**Spend Less**

1. How can we think differently regarding our Christmas spending this year?
2. Make your spending an act of worship.

*…they bowed down and worshiped him.* **Matthew 2:10**

Ask the question: Who or what am I supporting when I purchase this gift?

1. Make your gifts more meaningful without spending more.

*Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* **Matthew 2:11**

1. Emmanuel is a beautiful and powerful act of generosity-a gift we needed.

*You be enriched in everyway so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.* **2 Corinthians 9:11**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord as I anticipate meeting you,*

*May I worship fully,*

*Spend less, give more,*

*And love all.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

How can you worship God with the way you spend this Christmas season?

How will you make your gifts more meaningful this year-for family, or those you don’t even know?

How can being generous enrich your spiritual journey?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Matthew 10:42**
* **Tuesday Acts 20:35**
* **Wednesday 2 Corinthians 9:13**
* **Thursday 2 Corinthians 9:7**
* **Friday Proverbs 19:17**
* **Saturday 2 Corinthians 8:13-15**

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**Hebrews 4:12**

Luke 2:8-20

December 13, 2015

**Give More**

1. The whole idea of Christmas is centered on relationship.
2. Give more gifts of presence.

*So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby who was lying in the manger.* **Luke 2:16**

1. Make it personal.

*But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.* **Luke 2:19**

1. Gifts of love go beyond money, they are costly and sacrificial.

*Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.* **John 15:3**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord as I anticipate meeting you,*

*May I worship fully,*

*Spend less, give more,*

*And love all.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

What are some dangers that come along with associating love with material objects?

What are some others ways we can communicate love beyond gifts?

As you consider what it means to give relationally-what is the biggest challenge?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Luke 1:39-48a**
* **Tuesday Luke 1:57-66**
* **Wednesday Galatians 3:15-22**
* **Thursday Galatians 3:23-4:7**
* **Friday 1 John 4:7-16**
* **Saturday Titus 2:11-14**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**

1 John 3:16-18

December 20, 2015

**Love All**

1. Loving all includes people who are difficult to love.
2. Jesus’ act of love was given to all.

*This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us.* **1 John 3:16**

1. Step into the places where you can help those in need with material, knowledge, or care.

*And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in them.* **1 John 3:16-17**

1. Christmas changes when we change how we celebrate it.

*Dear children, let us not love with words o speech but with actions and in truth.* **1 John 3:18**

Action

**Begin each morning with this prayer:**

*Lord as I anticipate meeting you,*

*May I worship fully,*

*Spend less, give more,*

*And love all.*

**Read study verse for the day.**

**Mediate on these questions:**

Who is the most difficult person for you to love? How can you show them love this Christmas?

Have you ever withheld love from somebody? Why?

Where is a place where you see a need? How can you practically step into that place this Christmas?

Study

*(Weekly Readings that are related to the sermon theme)*

* **Monday Hebrews 1:1-4**
* **Tuesday Isaiah 52:7-10**
* **Wednesday Psalm 148:1-14**
* **Thursday Micah 4:1-5**
* **Friday John 3:31-36**
* **Saturday Isaiah 60:1-6**

*The word of God is living and active sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

**Hebrews 4:12**