

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Christmas Message

What is the Christmas message **in a single statement**?

The Christmas message **is a story**

- Though it was foretold centuries before...
- It was lived out **real time**, with **real people**
- What was the message **to those people**?

.....
Act 1, scene 1 begins with Zacharias... (Luke 1:5-35)

- He unexpectedly encountered **an angel** (Who expects an angel?)
- Not just any angel – **Gabriel!** – The **Herald of The Lord...**
- Who **STANDS** in the very presence **of God!**
- And his life became **unusual** – unprecedented, even
- Whatever he had expected was **taken from him**

.....
Act 2, scene 1 brings Mary on stage... (Luke 1:26-38)

- She also unexpectedly encounters **an angel**
- Once again – **Gabriel!** (This guy doesn't do light work)
- She is **not** a priest alone in **The Holy of Holies!**
- She is a unmarried, engaged, devout, **pure** young woman
- She is told she'll become a pregnant, still unmarried virgin...
- Pregnant with **The Incarnation of GOD!**
- No doubt, **NOT** what she anticipated

.....
Act 3, scene 1 introduces her fiancé, Joseph

- His role doesn't begin with an unexpected angel
- His part begins with an **incomprehensible shock!**
- But he is a kind, merciful man who hopes to deal with it quietly
- **THEN** the angel (No I.D.) shows up and enlightens him

.....
Fast forward to **Act 4, scene 2**... (Luke 2:8-14)

- A group of lowly shepherds are out in the sticks at night
- **SUDDENLY** – an angel shows up in front of them, and...
- **THE GLORY OF THE LORD** flips the house & stage lights on **BRIGHT!**
- He tells them **THE Good News!!**
- **MESSIAH** has just been born in the little town near by...
- In a feeding trough, **in a barn.** (What else would you expect?)

.....
So – **What's the Christmas message?**

Because the angel said **the exact same thing** to **ALL** of them

Do Not Be Afraid!

- What would Zacharias have to fear?
- What would Mary have to fear?
- What would Joseph have to fear?
- What would the shepherds have to fear?

Fear would be a very natural, understandable response - don't you think?

- Maybe the Supernatural deserves more than a natural response...
- Especially if it's obviously **from God**. He's not out to get us.

.....
What do people rightly have to fear?

- **Death & the Judgement of God!!**

Jesus came to **DESTROY** death, and...

Make God's judgement **the best thing we ever get!**

.....
Why is God adamant that we **Do NOT** fear?

- Fear **disables** faith
- Fear **displaces** faith
- Fear **negates** faith
- Fear is **of the flesh**, not God – **He has none to give**
- Fear **removes** God from **FIRST place** in our lives
- Fear **disempowers** us
- Fear & Faith **Do NOT** cohabit!

It's not **what prompts fear** that should concern us

- We all face it
- It's fear itself

Fear, when hosted – **separates us from God!**

God **IS** safety & security!!

.....
Why was God angry with His people in **Hebrews 3:6-4:16**?

- **They chose fear** over faith & trust in God

Was it threatening & dangerous?

Absolutely!!

Would they have been safe with God?

Absolutely!!

.....
Take His **Strong Exhortation** to Zach, Mary, Joe & the Shepherds

Stay Safe...

Do **NOT** fear!