

DECEMBER 11, 2015

God Got Involved

The greatest miracle of Christmas, what is it? Some say the star, and some say the virgin birth. Some say the greatest miracle of Christmas is the wise men coming so far. Perhaps the greatest miracle is that God sent His Son at all. But here's another miracle.

It's a miracle how Jesus came. He came to mankind, through mankind. He came through a chosen race, the Jews. He came through a chosen people, Joseph and Mary. He came through a chosen family, again, Joseph and Mary's. And He came through the human race.

Let's pause. He could've just dropped a book from the sky. He could've sent some sort of ET type person. You know, that would've been a real close encounter. He could've sent a messenger. In the Old Testament He did that often. He sent prophets and angels. He could've done a mental telepathy thing, so that we all just knew what God wanted. Whoever said God had to use words.

No, God, in His wisdom, chose to come Himself in the form of a man. He was born as a man, lived as a man, and died as a man. He came into our mess Himself. He invaded this territory we call our world. He stepped down. Have you ever noticed He left His throne in glory

for a humble earth? He came down, so we could go up. He entered our world, so we could enter His. He became like us so that we could become like Him.

In a sense He came to get us. In a sense He came to rescue us. In a sense He came to change us. But He didn't do any of these from a distance... He came to us. He got involved in our world. So, what He did, He didn't do at arm's length.

It's a messy thing to get involved. Is your life messy? Mine often is. There are no neat compartments to my life; they're all messy. There are no perfect thoughts in this head; they're all painfully human. There are no clear and completely on-spot words that come from my mouth. They are all hit and miss. But, - isn't that the way all of life is? Isn't all of life messy?

A wonderful miracle of Christmas is that God got involved. Beyond that, I think He set an example for us as well. If you want to help, you have to get involved. Your hands have to become dirty. You have to fail, in the process, before you finally win. You need to be okay with not being okay before you can be better. Christians try to help others at arm's length. If it costs us too much time or too much money, well, that's just a bit more than we bargained for.

Here's an example. If you have a flat tire, you don't need someone to yell at you from their passing car "sorry about that." Or here's the holy version. "I'm praying for you"

(as they speed on). You want them to stop, get out of their car, and help you fix yours. And, that's what Jesus did when He came to earth. God is not just watching you from a distance, He got involved.

He which began a good work... will continue to work it out.

Rev. Jerry Rea