

2024-12-24 – The Cast of Christmas Part VI - Trusting God's Plan: Lessons from the Birth and Ministry of Jesus

Summary

The sermon reflects on the journey of the Magi to worship Jesus and the subsequent events leading to Jesus' earthly ministry. It emphasizes the importance of recognizing Jesus as the Messiah and the need for believers to trust in God's promises, even when plans don't go as expected. The message encourages humility, as exemplified by John the Baptist, who acknowledged that Jesus must become greater while he must become less. The sermon ties the Christmas narrative to the broader gospel message, highlighting the significance of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with open hearts, ready to receive what You have for us today. As we reflect on the journey of the Magi and the beginning of Jesus' ministry, help us to see Your hand in our lives. May we be open to Your guidance and trust in Your promises, even when our plans falter. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Key Verses

1. Matthew 2:1-12
2. John 3:22-36
3. Luke 2:52
4. John 3:30

Questions

1. What stood out to you about the Magi's journey to find Jesus?
2. How do you think Mary felt during the years before Jesus began His ministry?
3. What does John the Baptist's statement 'He must become greater; I must become less' mean to you?
4. Have you ever experienced a time when your plans didn't go as expected? How did you respond?
5. What does it mean to trust in God's promises in your daily life?
6. How can we apply the message of humility in our own lives?
7. What role does faith play when we face doubts about our salvation?
8. How can the Christmas story inspire us to live out our faith throughout the year?

Life Application

This week, identify one area in your life where you need to let go of control and trust God more. Pray for humility and the strength to allow Jesus to become greater in that area.

Key Takeaways

1. Jesus' birth and ministry are central to God's plan for salvation.
2. Trusting in God's promises is crucial, especially when plans don't align with our expectations.
3. Humility is essential in our walk with God, as demonstrated by John the Baptist.
4. Belief in Jesus as the Son of God grants us eternal life.
5. The Christmas story is a reminder of God's love and the beginning of His redemptive work.

Ending Prayer

Lord, as we conclude our discussion, we thank You for the reminder that You must become greater in our lives. Help us to trust in Your promises and to walk in humility, knowing that Your plans are greater than ours. May we carry the message of Christmas in our hearts throughout the year, living in the light of Your love and grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.