A Simple Christmas Series

Series Introduction

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Introduction:

Good morning!

Including today, there’s just 23 days until Christmas. It’s a fun time of year for a lot of reasons. The holiday season, from Thanksgiving until Christmas is kind of a break from the normal stuff we do all year. Out come the sweaters and hot chocolate. The stores are a buzz with shoppers, decorations, and sales. Homes begin to twinkle as lights go up... along with the electricity bill. And before you know it, there will be a mountain of ripped up wrapping paper in your living room on Christmas morning, and all you’ll want to do is go back to bed and sleep until the New Year.

And of course you’ve got all the stuff that seems to fill every second of your time until then. (Parties, pageants, cleaning, shopping, cooking, and your own traditions).

Remember when you were a kid and how awesome Christmas was? Now, as adults, we still like Christmas... we enjoy parts of it don’t we? But, it’s different now. Christmas almost includes a certain amount of dread now doesn’t it?

Why is that? Why was it that as kids, we couldn’t wait until Christmas. It’s was a magical, dreamy day filled with surprise. Well, I got to thinking about it this past week. When I was a kid, my parents did a great job at Christmas. They always knew how to make it fun. I would go to bed on Christmas Eve taking one last look at the Christmas tree, which by the way only had a few presents under it, and then wake up on Christmas morning and find a living room full of stuff Santa had brought me and my sisters!

Here’s what I think: I think that the reason my attitude towards Christmas has changed since I was a kid is because, when I was a kid, Christmas was simple. But now, as an adult... it’s complicated. Now there’s self inflicted pressure I put on myself.

Here’s the thing, and we all do this, for some reason we’ve got into the habit of trying our hardest to make sure this Christmas is better than the last. So what do we do to make sure it’s better? We spend more money and do more stuff. And all that extra money and stuff complicates Christmas.

So that’s where this series came from. See, I know a lot of you probably think that this is an easy time to prepare messages. I mean it’s Christmas right? You know what I’m going to preach about, I know what I’m going to preach about, I know that you know what I’m going to preach about. So you think, “Man, you’ve done this for years, the story hasn’t changed. There’s still angels, and shepherds, and wise men... the star, the manger, and joy to the world”.

Yeah, you’re right. But, just like you I tend to get caught in the trap of trying to out do myself from year to year.

So, this week, I’m in my office studying and trying to come up with something that’s new, fresh, cool, innovative, different, and better. And I’m getting frustrated because nothing’s coming to me. Finally, I go to my chair. (Not my desk chair. I’ve got another chair in my office by my window where I go to think, read, and a lot of times just pray). So I go to my chair and my brain is fried, I can’t come up with one single creative thought... and then I actually prayed this out loud, “God, I just need A Simple Christmas Series”.

Have you ever seen a cartoon where a light bulb appears above a character’s head? Boom! That was it. It was like God said, “Well, it’s about time you asked”.

So, that started it.

Here’s the big idea for this whole series:

**Christmas is complicated, but it shouldn’t be and it doesn’t have to be.**

As a matter of fact, I think that the best way to simplify Christmas is to just look at the story itself. It’s all about simplicity. Joseph and Mary were just simple people. The shepherds were just simple people. The birth of Jesus was a simple as you can get.

Now, don’t misunderstand me. There were some complicated circumstances and situations in the Christmas story. But in reality, it’s a pretty uncomplicated story wrapped up in God’s love for you and me.

So, we’re going to do our best in the next four weeks to unwrap the simplicity of Christmas. We’re going to look at four different, simple descriptions of Christmas.