

Title: The Dangers of a Christ-less Christmas.

Text: Matthew 1:18-25 ESV // Luke 1:26-38 ESV

The Problem: As followers of Jesus we prepare and go through the Christmas season not looking any different than the rest of the world.

Through the eyes of Joseph and Mary we see:

1. **A divine interruption to be acknowledged.**
 - a. **Message to Joseph:** *“But as he considered these things, **behold**, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream...”* Matthew 1:20a ESV
 - b. **Message to Mary:** *“The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”* Luke 1:28 ESV
2. **A divine interpreter to be listened to.**
 - a. **Message to Joseph:** *“...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife.”* Matthew 1:20b ESV
 - b. **Message to Mary:** *“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.”* Luke 1:28 ESV
3. **A divine instruction to be adhered to.**
 - a. **Message to Joseph:** *“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:21 ESV
 - i. His response: *“When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...”* vs. 24
 - b. **Message to Mary:** *“And **behold**, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”* Luke 1:31 ESV
 - ii. Her response: *“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’”* vs. 38
 - c. Delayed obedience is disobedience.
4. **A divine incarnation to be worshiped.**
 - a. **Message to Joseph:** *“All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “**Behold**, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).”* Matthew 1:22-23 ESV
 - b. **Message to Mary:** *“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”* Luke 1:32-33 ESV

Take Away: Don't glorify the season of Christmas and miss the reason for Christmas!

Sermon Discussion Questions:

We all, at times, must decide if we will acknowledge, listen to, adhere to, and worship Jesus.

Are you open to God interrupting your life?

Will you listen to who/what he sends to speak to you?

Will you obey once you've heard?

Will you worship the right thing (Jesus) this season or like the rest of the world worship over-indulgence?

If you aren't doing so already, would you consider starting an advent devotional during this Christmas season? Here are a few recommendations, but this is certainly not an exhaustive list. There are many great advent devotionals from which to choose.

In the Manger: 25 Inspirational Selections for Advent by Max Lucado

Come, Let Us Adore Him by Paul David Tripp

Unwrapping the Greatest Gift: A Family Celebration of Christmas by Ann Voskamp

Family Advent Devotional: Celebrate Christ Together by Matt and Lauren Chandler

Good News of Great Joy by John Piper free online [here](#)