

SERMON SERIES: Unto Us
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Key Line

Stop trying to have the perfect Christmas; instead, celebrate the perfect Savior.

Introduction

What are items that some people might say make for a “perfect Christmas”? (eg, snow, all the family is together, getting/receiving the perfect gift, etc)

We’ll be focusing on the perfect Savior instead of the “perfect Christmas.”

Seek the Word

Read Isaiah 9:6. Encourage people to try to memorize this theme verse over the next couple of weeks. The phrases at the end of the verse are examples of how Jesus is the perfect Savior.

Today we’re going to focus on the phrase “wonderful counselor,” and the idea that, since God/Jesus made us, He’s the ultimate counselor, the One who is best equipped to help us with our life issues/problems.

Read 9:2. God shines light on our “messy lives”; why does He do this? (*This is necessary for us to truly see ourselves, so we can allow the “wonderful counselor” to help us.*) If you want, discuss how He shines light on our messiness.

Talk About It

For Jesus, the wonderful counselor, to help us we have to...

1) ...be completely honest with Him.

Give examples of stories/people/verses in the Bible that deal with being honest with God. (ex: *John 4: the woman at the well; Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira; Hebrews 4:13 nothing is hidden from God*)

- Why is it so important to be honest with God?
- How do we go about being honest with Him?
- Why might someone NOT want to be honest with Him?

2) ...want to be healed.

Read John 5:1-9. Notice verse 6: “Do you want to get well?”

What are some reasons people may not want to be healed from their sin, addiction, etc?

(*takes too much work, we may like to wallow in our self-pity, we’re comfortable in our negative situation because it’s what’s “normal” for us*)

3)... do whatever He says.

Read John 9:1-7 and Matthew 19:16-22 for an example of one who did, and another who didn't, do what Jesus said.

Give examples of things Jesus might tell us to do, when it comes to dealing with various negative life situations (*ex: asking forgiveness of someone, giving forgiveness to someone, repenting of a sinful behavior, etc.*)

Give examples of times you did what Jesus was telling you to do. What were the results? (*...though we don't always see positive results, at least not in the way or time we sometimes want.*)

Give examples of times you didn't do what Jesus was telling you to do. What were the results?

Application

Think of your current life situation, including any negative issues. Which of the three steps above might be where you're at right now? Which might be the most important for you to do? Which is the hardest for you to do? ...and for each question: why?

If appropriate, ask group members: Is there anything the group can do to help anyone in dealing with any of these 3 steps?