



When Jesus Enters Your World

Hope

Romans 4:18 (MSG)

¹⁸ When everything was hopeless, Abraham believed anyway, deciding to live not on the basis of what he saw he *couldn't* do but on what God said he *would* do. And so he was made father of a multitude of peoples. God himself said to him, "You're going to have a big family, Abraham!"

Psalm 25:3 (NIV[®])

³ No one whose hope is in you will ever be put to shame, but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.

I. God's purposes invade your awareness ---"Christmased"

A. God's purposes are not an interruption!

- ❖ Sometimes they are personal events ----Mary
- ❖ Sometimes they are events which you are invited to observe ---Shepherds
- ❖ Sometimes they are events in which you can play a role ---Joseph

B. When You Get "Christmased"

1. Often, you will be frightened
2. Schedules will be interrupted
3. Others will wonder
4. Your very best will be required
5. God will be glorified
6. More that you don't understand, than you do
7. In the end, you will be wonderfully transformed

C. The Power of Hope

- ❖ Hope is not the determination to get your way, it is centered in God's promise to you.

II. Walking with God is a transforming Experience

A. Confused to Courageous

Acts 4:12-14 (NIV[®])

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." ¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.

B. Angry to Content

Acts 9:1-2 (NIV[®])

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

Philippians 4:12-13 (NIV[®])

¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

C. Unqualified yet Chosen

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (NIV[®])

²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,

²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Heavenly Father,

I rejoice today in the great gift of Your son Jesus. In Him I have life and hope. In this season may Your provision for me be more real than any need I face. Direct my steps that I may share Your gifts of Christmas with those I meet. Give me discernment to see beyond myself and see the opportunities around me. May the hope of Jesus flow through my life this week. Almighty God in You I put my hope and trust. Amen.

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