

Christmas 2022
Behind The Scenes
12/18/2022

- Christmas can bring out both the best and worst in people.
- Behind The Scenes

Luke 2:1-14 (ESV) In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Scene 1 - CREATION: God made us for a **RELATIONSHIP** with Him.

- The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want
- God designed us to run on Him
- In the beginning God

Gen. 2:4 (MSG) "This is the story of how it all started of heaven and earth and when they were created."

Job 12:7-10 (MSG) "But ask the animals what they think—let them teach you; let the birds tell you what's going on. Put your ear to the earth—learn the basics. Listen—the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories. Isn't it clear that they all know and agree that God is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand—Every living soul, yes, every breathing creature? Isn't this all just common sense, as common as the sense of taste?"

Ephesians 1:4 (MSG) Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love,

Scene 2: CHOICE: We **REJECTED** the invitation to the relationship

- The power to decide
- That's what God does for us
- He offered and we rejected
- He took the risk and we ate the fruit

Gen. 3:1-6(NIV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

P – PRESUMPTION

- We start questioning God
- Did God really say
- Circumstances
- Circumstances cause us to doubt God's love or to doubt His wisdom.

A – ARROGANCE

- I start wanting to be God
- and you will be like God,
- God is God and you're not

T – TEMPTATION

- When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye,

H – HOSTILITY

- Hostility is when I start getting mad at God
- she took some and ate it.
- It always leads to darkness
- "God is light and in Him is no darkness at all."
- Since God is light, every time I walk away from God, the further I get away from His light, the darker it becomes.

Psalm 82:5 (TLB) Because you are in darkness, all the foundations of society are shaken to the core."

Scene 3 - CHRISTMAS: Jesus comes to the RESCUE.

- The story of the Gospel is the story of rescue.
- Let there be light
- God wants you back.

1 John 4:9 (NLT) God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.

Luke 19:10 (NIV) For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

SCENE 4 - COMMIT - This scene is still being **WRITTEN**.

- It's You
- You get to write the final scene

John 3:16 (NIV) “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Step 1 - you receive God's gift

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.”

Step 2 - I believe His promise

“That whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”