



Sermon Notes

My Christmas Story – God’s Favor Rests on Me! December 12, 2021

How does the Christmas story apply to me?

Jesus didn’t come so we could have a quaint holiday in December.

Luke 2:1-14

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

God’s favor rests on me!

The birth of Jesus brought God’s favor

Christmas is about God’s favor

Grace – Freely given, unmerited favor of God

Favor - Approval, support; preference for one person, group, etc., over another

Favor means approval

We do not live for God’s approval - we live from God’s approval

We are approved by God because we are His children!



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John 1:11-13

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

Romans 8:15-16

⁵ So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God’s Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God’s children.

Galatians 4:6

⁶ And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, “Abba, Father.”

John 1:11-13 The Message

*He came to his own people,
but they didn’t want him.
But whoever did want him,
who believed he was who he claimed
and would do what he said,
He made to be their true selves,
their child-of-God selves*

“My dignity as Abba’s child is my most coherent sense of self”

Brennan Manning

1 John 3:1

¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Favor and fear are not compatible.

When we identify with God’s favor, we can see fear for what it is.

Fear promises safety

This Christmas, because I identify with God’s favor, I will not give in to fear.

