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“Promises Made and Promises Kept!: Why Did Jesus Come?”

I Prayer

II The Advent Season: Introductory Information

In the Christian tradition, the four weeks immediately preceding Christmas begin a new liturgical year, with the Season of Advent. Derived from the Latin *adventus*, for “coming,” Advent is a time of celebratory expectancy with believers anticipating the coming of the messiah, as foretold to David in *2 Samuel 7:1-17*. In addition to anticipating Jesus’ birth, Christian believers also celebrate Advent as anticipation of the *parousia*, a Greek term denoting Jesus’ second coming. In therefore keeping with Advent’s optimism, its four weeks are traditionally observed in with the consecutive lighting of candles, symbolizing the four virtues Jesus brings: **hope, love, joy, and peace**.



**Advent Candles:
Hope, Joy, Love
and Peace**

While society-at-large makes New Year resolutions with the beginning of the new calendar year, members of the Christian family have the opportunity to spiritually start anew with the new liturgical year, beginning **on Sunday, December 3, 2017**. As we prepare to joyfully anticipate the coming of Jesus, this evening’s Bible Study sets a foundation, by looking at the promise that Jesus would come (*the Davidic Covenant*). In building upon that foundation, this Bible Study calls for us to critically ask the question, **“Why Did Jesus Come?”** In thinking of the question as “Why was is *necessary* for Jesus to come?”, we can answer it by first looking close to home, at the brokenness of Jesus’



**A transitional image of David:
from shepherd to king**

most famous family member, King David. In looking at a side of David we seldom discuss, it’s easy to see that Jesus truly came to bridge the gap between the most imperfect humans and the most absolutely perfect God. Stated otherwise, it was necessary for Jesus to come so we, as broken humans, would not continue to condemn ourselves to a state of “separation from God.” Ultimately, we should all celebrate the fact that Jesus came to save people with as many issues as each and every one of us! That’s the real joyful celebration of the Advent Season.

III Preliminary Discussion and Question

- (A) The Methodist Doctrine of Original/Ancestral Sin (Jesus, as the “second Adam”)
- (B) What is Hell?

IV Foundational Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-17 (the Davidic Covenant) (*brief discussion*)

V Examinational Text: 2 Samuel 11:1-17 & 26



King David & Bathsheba

- (A) What does the physical scene look like (verse 2)?
- (B) What does the response/report back to David tell you about Bathsheba (verse 3)?
- (C) Describe the action in verses 4 and 5. What are the personal consequences? Do you think this was complete consent?
- (D) In this age of #MeToo, is there anyone you can think of that fits this paradigm?
- (E) David's second bad act: Verse 6 begins David's attempted cover-up and deceit. How do you think David felt after Uriah's statement in verse 11?
- (F) David's third bad act: after he again attempts to trick Uriah in verse 13, he plots Uriah's certain death in verse 14. How do you think David felt at the moment he gave Uriah the letter? How do you think Uriah was feeling?
- (G) By verse 16, Joab was a conspirator with David. How do you think he felt in reading David's letter, with Uriah standing before him?
- (H) In looking at verse 26, put yourself in Bathsheba's place. How would you feel? Now, switch hats: how would you feel if you were David?

VI Critical Analysis

- (A) Of all the actors in this story, who has "clean hands?"
- (B) Remember the old saying "You can choose your friends, but you can't choose your family?" These actors are a part of Jesus' family. What does that say about God's love for human beings? Does it mean anything that his promise (2 Samuel 7:1-17) was to send the messiah to "less than perfect" people? What about YOUR family?
- (C) As we think about Jesus' anticipated second coming, is he coming again for "less than perfect" people? How does that make you feel?

NOTE: The Advent Season is about receiving God's unconditional love and sharing it with others. If Jesus came into a family like David's, isn't it beautiful to know Jesus will come into your family, too? (*our discussion of Ancestral/Original sin*)?

VII Comments and/or Questions

VIII Closing Prayer