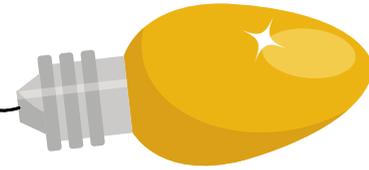


Christmas in Exile



Out of Place
Gary Lee Webber
December 26, 2021

God entered the world in the distressing disguise of a baby born to a refugee couple with no place to lay their heads. Most people in Jesus' day missed Him. They couldn't see Him for His distressing disguise. They expected a king with all the wealth and power of David, or a prophet who would come with the grandeur of Moses, or a priest who would practice all the religious eccentricities of Aaron. What they got instead was God on a cross, a most distressing disguise. Join us for week 4 of *Christmas in Exile* where we discover that Jesus still comes today in the most distressing disguises.

Passage:
Matthew 25:31-46

Principle:
To find Jesus we must look for Him in all His _____.

Practice:
Keep your _____ and _____ open.

Practice the Platinum Rule: Love _____ as _____ has loved you.

Have the _____ of _____.

NEXTGEN OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 6:00 P.M.

Come and see what's new in Next Gen! Browse programming options for birth through adult, get to know your Next Gen team, and find out what's coming up for spring and summer.

SALT AND MEMBERS MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 4:30 P.M.

For our first quarter in 2022, we will have various workshops and "how to" sessions to help leaders more effectively make disciples and equip those who do.



RSVP TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- United Worship Gathering (1/2)
- Financial Peace University (1/12)

For more details about these and other events, scan or visit ssbc.org



Thank you for your tithes and offerings and gifts to Advent Conspiracy and the Invested Initiative. As 2021 comes to a close, remember that your contributions must be received or postmarked by December 31 to appear on your 2021 contribution statement. To give:

- Visit www.ssbc.org/giving
- Mail to 1435 Atlantic Blvd., 32207
- Bring it to the church office (Place it in the locked mailbox if brought after office hours. We are closed on December 27-28, and 31.)

Welcome to Southside/Aspire Church!

We're glad you've chosen to worship with us! If you're here for the first time, you are our special guest. Fill out the information on the other side of this card and visit The Landing (located just outside the sanctuary in the main hall) where we have a gift for you!

tear here to use as a bookmark in your daily reading. →



search **SSBCJax** to connect with us on social media!



Southside/Aspire Church
1435 Atlantic Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32207
904-396-6633 | ssbc.org

Small Group Questions

Use this outline for personal reflection, as a couples or family devotion, or with a small group.

Southside's small groups focus on the neighborhoods in which we live. We have groups that meet on campus, online, and in homes across our city. Visit ssbc.org/SmallGroups to find yours!

HANGOUT (warming up to the topic):

1. What does it mean that Jesus comes to us in distressing disguises?

HEAR (listening to God through Scripture):

2. Read John 1:1-14.

- What strikes you about John's description of Jesus' entrance into the world?
- According to John, how did people respond to Jesus' arrival? How does Luke's Christmas narrative back this up? (*see Luke 2*)
- Why did so many people miss Jesus' arrival? What were they looking for?

3. Read John 14:1-14.

- What did Jesus want His disciples to know? Why was this important?
- What do Thomas and Philip ask? What does each man's question reveal about their understanding of who Jesus was? How might Jesus have felt when He heard these questions?
- How could the disciples have followed Jesus for years, heard His teachings, seen His miracles, and yet still not recognize Him? What should that tell those of us who follow Jesus today?

4. Read Revelation 5:1-14.

- What is Jesus' distressing disguise in this passage? What is the significance of His appearance in Revelation 5?
- How are these passages (John 1, John 14, and Revelation 5) connected to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:31-46?
- If the religious leaders in first-century Jerusalem missed Jesus' arrival, and if His own disciples failed to recognize Jesus when He was standing before them, is it possible that we might miss Him today? If so, how?

HUDDLE (making it personal and praying together - in huddles):

6. What do you need to do in 2022 to see Jesus and respond to His call on your life? Talk about it, invite accountability, and pray together.

Daily Readings:

○ Day 1: Hebrews 13

○ Day 2: Matthew 25

○ Day 3: Philippians 2

○ Day 4: John 1

○ Day 5: John 14

○ Day 6: John 15

○ Day 7: 1 John 2 & 3

← tear here to use as a bookmark in your daily reading.

Suggested Resources:

Welcoming the Stranger,

by Matthew Soerens & Jenny Hwang

Undaunted, by Zoya Phan

From Every People and Nation,

by J. Daniel Hays

The Music of Christmas,

by Gary & Sheri Webber

Saving Christmas sermon series,

ssbc.org/sermon-series/saving-christmas/

Let's Connect!

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Fill out the information below and place it in the offering basket at the end of service or **connect with us digitally** by texting VIP to 904-441-8650.

GUESTS: Bring this card with you and join us at The Landing (located just outside the sanctuary in the main hall) following worship today. We'd love to meet you!

Name:

Phone:

Email:

I would like more information about:
