

The Miracle of Immanuel: God's Compassion and Love

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. (Luke 2:7, ESV)

When we think of Christmas, we typically don't think of sacrifice. But what starts in Bethlehem culminates at the cross. Today, as we begin our series on "The Miracle of Immanuel," we'll see how Jesus reveals God's boundless compassion and love—a love that meets us right where we are.

True heroism is remarkably sober, very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost. — Arthur Ashe

From Jesus (God with us), I learn about God's compassion and love in the following ways...

1. God's Compassion and Love Are _____

1) I see that throughout the _____.

8 Israel, I can't let you go. I can't give you up. How could I possibly destroy you as I did the towns of Admah and Zeboiim? I just can't do it. My feelings for you are much too strong. (Hosea 11:8)

2) I see that within the _____.

"If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? (Luke 15:4, NLT)

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. (2 Peter 3:9, NLT)

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1John 4:10)

- Christmas Message: God has been _____ pursuing you.

2. God's Compassion and Love Are _____

God loves us not because we are loveable but because He is love. —C.S. Lewis

1) I see this _____ in the Old Testament.

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

2) I see this _____ in Jesus.

I lay down my life for the sheep (John 10:15)

3. God's Compassion and Love Are _____

1) When Jesus came to earth, he had _____ in mind.

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

For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Mark 10:45)

In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will (Ephesians 1:4-5)

This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

... with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (Revelation 5:9,10)

2) When Jesus came to earth, he had _____ in mind.

- Consider the earliest gospel _____.

21 Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets. (Acts 3:21)

- Consider the final heavenly _____.

"I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:5)

This Christmas, I will reflect on the miracle of Emmanuel and remember God's compassion and love. It's a love that's personal and pursuing. It's a love that's sacrificial and unconditional. And it's a love that's saving and renewing. And I will seek a deeper relational with the Lord Jesus Christ.