



What Just Happened?



Every year we tell the story of Christmas...



The Incarnation is the hinge point of human history.

*“Unfathomable”*  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

What happened when God became Man...  
When the Creator invaded Creation...

*“Unfathomable”*  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

How did the incarnation impact the people who were associated with the event?

How do you tell a story?

How did the events  
surrounding the  
Incarnation  
take place?

## The Cast of Characters

- Herod
- The Wise Men
- The Religious Scholars
- The Shepherds
- The Innkeeper
- The People of Bethlehem

*“Unfathomable”*  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The Wise Men became  
Worshippers.

*“Unfathomable”*  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

Herod who was a winner  
became a loser  
(he failed to find the child).

*“Unfathomable”*  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The Shepherds who were  
generally considered losers  
became winners  
(they found the child).

*“Unfathomable”*  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The religious scholars who  
knew the answer to where the  
child was to be born never  
even looked!

“Unfathomable”  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The innkeeper found that the guests who had the most fuss made over them were not the rich folks in the “imperial suite” but the poor folks in the stable.

“Unfathomable”  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The people of Bethlehem (where nothing ever happened) had an event of Biblical proportion happen in their town.

But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”  
Micah 5:2

“Unfathomable”  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The shepherds became invited guests of honor, with an invitation delivered by some very high class messengers.

“Unfathomable”  
God's ^ Gift Exchange

The Humble were exalted.  
The Exalted were humbled.  
The Lowly were lifted up.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.  
Jeremiah 29:13

Do you see how  
the Incarnation  
turned everything  
upside down?

The gift you get  
says a lot about the  
person who gave  
it to you.

“Unfathomable”  
God’s ^ Gift Exchange

Jesus exchanged  
a palace for a stable,  
a throne for a manger.

“Unfathomable”  
God’s ^ Gift Exchange

Jesus came to  
Bethlehem,  
not Jerusalem.

“Unfathomable”  
God’s ^ Gift Exchange

Jesus went to  
Galilee,  
not Judea.

Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: “Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:13-16

“Unfathomable”  
 God's ^ Gift Exchange

Jesus hung out with  
 “publicans and sinners”  
 not Pharisees.

So what does that  
 say about the  
 character of God?

Do you begin to  
 get the picture  
 here?

Jesus entry into our  
 world has a way of  
 upending the established  
 order of things and  
 defying or destroying  
 human expectations.

“Unfathomable”  
 God's ^ Gift Exchange

The humble are exalted.  
 The exalted are humbled.  
 Those that seek find.  
 The prisoners are set free.  
 The outcasts become sons.

The Spirit of the Sovereign  
 LORD is on me, because the  
 LORD has anointed me to preach  
 good news to the poor. He has sent  
 me to bind up the brokenhearted, to  
 proclaim freedom for the captives and  
 release from darkness for the  
 prisoners, to proclaim the year of the  
 LORD'S favor. Isaiah 61:1-2

“Unfathomable”  
 God's ^ Gift Exchange

How would you describe the effect of what God has done in choosing the Incarnation as His way of Salvation?

Jesus used this phrase as the tag line at least three times in his ministry:

- The parable of the workers in the vineyard
- To his disciples after the conversation with the rich young ruler
- At the end of the parable about the narrow door

The last will be first,  
 and  
 the first will be last.

Matthew 20:16, Mark 10:31, Luke 13:30

Both Peter and James thought this verse from Proverbs was important enough to quote in their epistles.

That is why Scripture says: “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. James 4:6-8,10

“Unfathomable”  
 God's ^ Gift Exchange

When you come to The Exchange what will you bring? What will you receive in return?

The Exchanges of Christmas

Advent 2018 - Week #3

How will the  
Incarnation  
impact you?