

- F. *Faith is that act by which we take the risk. It is that decision to live in the world based on God's revelation of Himself in Jesus despite the risks, despite the costs, despite the fear.*

Christmas Eve Morning 2023: Has Jesus Disturbed Your World?

Jerry Cisar — December 24, 2023

Text: Matthew 1:18—2:18

Introduction

I. The Coming of Jesus is Disturbing

- A. When the fullness of God is revealed in the coming of Jesus, it disturbs everything and everyone.
- B. Disturbances in our lives bring uncertainty and require faith.
- C. Jesus' coming didn't just disturb the Herods of the world, it intends to disturb us all in some way.

II. The Coming of Jesus is Transforming

- A. The coming of Jesus disturbed everything because it intends to transform everything.
 - i. The coming of Christ transforms everything and everyone because His coming is *the* revelation of God.



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ii. That *new thing* is determined by our response.

iii. Since we like stability, we resist what is *new* (John 3:19-21)

B. What is the *new* that He wants to create?

i. When we look at the life of Jesus we can catalogue many things.

ii. When we go to the letters, *epistles*, we discover many others.

III. The Coming of Jesus is Risky

A. When God reveals Himself it requires risks.

B. God upsets our lives to cause good to come from them.

i. From our vantage point, it's risky.

"I'm alarmed at how many are allergic to doing the hard work of looking deep within to discover their true selves and upward to God his unique blessing on their lives." (Broken and Whole, Stephen Macchia)

ii. Matthew 25:31-46 When we see people in any of these conditions, we are faced with risk.

C. There is a name we give to this risk. We call it *faith*.

i. Faith is that risk we take to live in accordance with what God has made known to us in the coming of Jesus.

ii. Faith is required to listen to the wisdom of Jesus... whose wisdom seems so radically different than the world's.

iii. Faith is required to forgive people their offenses and treat them as if they had not done them.

iv. Faith is required to endanger ourselves for the sake of others.

v. Faith is required to, like the magi, disregard Herod's wishes and go another way.

D. Advent is all about the coming of God.

E. *How can what is painful be good?*