

**"God on Mission"
Sunday, December 16 – Dustin Pennington**

Introduction:

Our cultural Christmas orientation centers on a view towards the North Pole, a sleigh, reindeer, and an overweight rosy cheek fellow.....

Black Fridays, Cyber Mondays, Terrific Tuesdays, Wacky Wednesdays..... whatever clever marketing scheme is out there...

In Truth, Christmas is the epic example of God on Mission

What is that mission?

Luke 19:10

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.

I. The Incarnation in the centerpiece

A. The Infinite becomes Infant

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

B. An Unexpected Approach

C. God Himself set aside His divine nature

D. A Love that birthed A Mission

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

Question to Consider: Did you find God or did He find you?

II. Our God the "Suitor"

A. Suitor: a man who pursues a relationship with a particular woman, with a view to marriage

B. Does this seem like an odd descriptor of God to you?

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- C. We are typically more comfortable or accustomed to adjectives like deity, Creator, Lord, God
- D. When you consider love is the motive for His mission to pursue us then "suitor" becomes a perfect word
- E. Proposed subtitle for the Bible: "God the Wedding Planner"
- F. Yes, there is a mystery here regarding God's Sovereignty and Human Volition we will never settle, nor should we expect to.
- G. A casual survey of Scripture reveals God as the Great Pursuer

III. Flash Back from the Manger

- A. God Pursues Adam in Garden
(Genesis 3)
- B. God Rescues Noah and his family
(Genesis 5)
- C. God Calls Abram out of Ur
(Genesis 12)
- D. God Saves Lot from the destruction of Sodom
(Genesis 19)
- E. God Reveals Himself to Moses
(Exodus 3)
- F. God Delivers the Israelites
(Exodus 14)
- G. God Sustains through the Judges
(Book of Judges)
- H. God Speaks to Samuel
(I Samuel 3)
- I. God Anoints David
(1 Samuel 16)

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IV. Flash Forward from the Manger

A. Jesus Called the Disciples

John 1:43

The next day He purposed to go into Galilee, and He found Philip.
And Jesus said to him, "Follow Me."

B. The Father Draws us

John 6:44

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him

Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few *are* chosen."

C. How Does God Pursue us?

1. Sovereign Encounters

a. Saul of Tarsus

b. Testimony of many Muslims

(From Diid native missionary with Send56 in Kenya)

A young man named Muhammad saw a vision of Jesus and the next day some Christians came to him and shared the gospel and he is born again. He calls his father in a Isiolo, town hundreds of miles away to tell him of his new faith in Christ. Diid went to the father's house evangelizing and the man comes to Christ because of what his son just told him about his experience.

2. He Sends us

Romans 10:14

How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher?

Conclusion

This "God on Mission" dwells in us by the Spirit. His Love for us has been unleashed in us so we GO to the neighborhoods, to the nations, to the hardest and darkest places on the planet!