

The Christmas Love Story

In 1962, Karl Barth, considered one of the greatest theologians of the last century, was giving a series lecture at a Seminary in the US. After the series, the President of the Seminary asked Barth to share his greatest theological insight he had throughout his career as a theologian. Barth simply replied, "Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

The Christmas story is a love story. It has all the elements of a good love story: the pursuit, the risk, the tension, the meeting point. Jesus came in pursuit of his people, took the risk of incarnation, and created a meeting point between God and men in a lowly manger ultimately leading to the Cross. This is the story that the world needs to hear. Unfortunately the world has a different ear and hears only the negatives, the duty, the rules, etc. They hear only prohibition, clean election, politics, hatred, etc. This Christmas, let us get the story right again.

Like Barth, Jesus was also asked a similar question in the Temple once. What is the most important command of all? What is the greatest theological insight? Jesus replied, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God.... and love your neighbour?"

Yes, Love. That is important. But Jesus knows that we cannot love God or love our neighbour on our own. Therefore before he mentions the commands, he reminds them to hear, listen and receive who God is and what He has done. Historically, the Covenant of grace and love came before the Law was given. And now God has empowered us with his Spirit and given us new hearts (Ezekiel 36) to enable us to love him back and love others. John says that it is not we who loved God, but God who first loved us.

Therefore, there is nothing greater and more important than to sit down, listen, understand and receive what God has for us in his Word. This is the secret to receive great empowering from God. Do this, and you will find the power to love God and neighbour well.

What do we learn about God's love from the Christmas story?

(1) This Love is Powerful. This love is powerful because this love is unconditional and unreasonable.

(2) God's Love is equal, but the fact is that the lowly, the simple and the poor receive it much more willingly than the powerful, and therefore God's love sometimes appears biased toward the poor. Wise men still seek Christ. But Christ was already with the lowly, the poor and the underdogs. We cannot ignore this fact in Christmas, that God dwells more comfortably with the simple and the lowly than he does with the powerful and rich.

(3) God is easily approachable and available. Even shepherds and simple streets folks were comfortable with Christ.

(4) This is Love in action. The incarnation is love in action. This action was completed on the Cross. Imagine what it would be like to receive a great act of love done specifically for you? The Cross was an act of love done specifically for you.

(5) God is offering a relationship. The starting point of any relationship is a meeting point. How do I begin a relationship with God? You meet him in His Son Jesus Christ.

- Pastor Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD
AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Oponlumi Esaca
- Speaker : Hekali Shikhu
- Ushers : Noel Medikhru & Imsu Jamir
- Keyboard : Kimeri Ngullie

Call to Worship Praise & Worship

Mass Prayer

- Hymn No. 50 : O Come, All Ye Faithful
- Special Song : Adult Choir
- Offertory & Announcement
- Message
- Hymn No.42 : Angels We have Heard on High
- Benediction

VISION statement of the City Church:

City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.

AIMS of the City Church:

Worship: To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.

Fellowship: To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.

Evangelism: To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God's great salvation.

Discipleship: To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.

Mission: To send out people in obedience to God's call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.

Sunday, December 17th, 2017

- Tithes: ₹ 48,450
- Mission: ₹ 500
- Offering: ₹ 8,725
- Building Fund: ₹ 1,02,770
- Thanksgiving: ₹ 5,000
- Total: ₹ 1,65,579



25th December, 10 am

Venue: Dimori Cove, Kigwema

Leader : Bokato Hesso

Speaker : Pastor Kedo Peseyie

Ushers : Chenakum Dvung, Rosang Pongener,
Noune Sale & Elilo Shitri

Keyboard : Lithungpeni Murry

**Welcome
Carol Singing**

Special Song : Children Choir

Scripture Reading : Alice Medikhru

Message

Hymn No.45 : Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

PRAYER

- Pray for our leaders in the Nagaland Government. 1 Tim 2:2 says, *“Pray for the kings and for all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”*.
- Pray for all the believers in Nagaland, so that we may stay alert, focused and faithful to our calling to live in unity and service to Christ, His church, and the world. Eph 6:18 says, *“...pray with perseverance for all the saints”*.
- *Pray for our Christmas and New Year program, that Christ may become more real and powerful in our lives.*

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CHRISTMAS WITH ASSAM RIFLES

