

Abundant Life Church
Pastor Steve Finton
December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Morning
Title: ***The Christmas Effect***

If he is not God, who is he?

The best premise for a good story contains *audacity*.

Daring: Jesus was born into a family with little means or status

Risky: Rome was the occupying force in Israel

Illogical: Virgin birth, angels speaking to shepherds, and wise men following a star

Matthew 2:10-16

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. 13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." 14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. 6 Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

The Effect of the Christmas story is ADOPTION

God rescues us and makes us full -fledged family members who receive eternal rewards.

- Daring
- Risky
- Illogical

As God's children, our lives are to tell a great story of what Jesus has done in us and through us!

We talk *at* God, never *with* God.

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We have forgotten how to be still and listen to God.

Our new adoptive family is daring, risky, and illogical!

Have you ever made a list of troubles, threats, or battles that you are facing in life?

Psalm 46:10

Be still, and know that I am God.

2 Chronicles 20:10-12

...now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. 12 Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us.

Psalm 46:4

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God the holy place where the Most High dwells.