

Sermon Notes – Luke 2 – Risk Assessment

Read Luke 2:1-7 – Jesus was born in a manger

*Christmas is about Jesus moving into your time and place.
Jesus enters into your circumstances.*

Here's what I believe – This idea of God entering into the world, into a specific situation is not limited to 2000 years ago.

Joseph and Mary accept the offer of God to come into their lives, and they accept an enormous amount of risk as well.

The first risk was the mud. It was most likely Spring rather than Winter. And after the thaw, the roads must have been ridiculous.

This was before paved roads. This was a muddy path in a hilly area, and Mary is 9 months pregnant. She didn't ride in a car. At best, and I mean at very best, she rode on a donkey, which isn't the smoothest ride either.

The second risk was the hotel. If you accept Jesus into your situation, you are not guaranteed any level of comfort.

Jesus' goal is for the redemption of His world. Following Jesus, you are often led into the difficult places of the world.

The final risk is violence

King Herod wants the baby king dead.

If you follow Jesus, you will find yourself at the fringes of community. And you will take some violent risks.

There is no acceptance of Jesus in your life without a trade for some substantial risks.

The Response to Risk

What is your risk tolerance? How much are you willing to risk in order to have a great gain?

Jesus says,

⁴³ *...the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. ...*

⁴⁴ *"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.*

⁴⁵ *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. – Matthew 13:43-45*

The offer is – *you will shine like the sun!*

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us."—
Nelson Mandela*

Are you willing to take the risk?

You need to want to live this life that God is offering.

You need to want to be an agent of transformation to the lives around you.

You need to want to know Jesus as deeply as possible.

You need to want to be a better person, putting away the old ways of your life.

You need to be willing to trade everything for Jesus.