



Once Upon a Time

The Story God is Telling and How You Fit

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Week 6- October 22, 2017

Deep Darkness and Great Light

Introduction: Clearly articulated rules are a double-edged sword.

God's Expectation (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

- Obedience will bring God's blessing and life (30:15-16).
- Disobedience will bring God's punishment and death (30:17-18).

Israel's Performance (Isaiah 1:2-17)

- They are Stubbornly Rebellious (1:2-4).
- They are Unresponsive to Punishment (1:5-10).
- They are Hoping in Religion (1:11-17).

God's Ultimate Solution: Messiah! (Isaiah 9:2-7)

- A special child will be born (Isaiah 9:2-7).
 - He will embody God to Israel.
 - He will rule over an eternal kingdom.
 - He will make everything right again.

Conclusion:

- We cannot fix our own sin-problem.
- Our God is relentless - nothing will stop Him from rescuing us.



Debrief Plan: 10/15/2017

Icebreakers:

1. On a scale of 1-10, how much of a rebel were you growing up?
2. What is something happening in the next six months or so that you are looking forward to right now and why?

Sermon Summary: Knowing God's rules didn't help Israel obey them. Instead, the nation sank into the deep darkness of rebellion against God, resulting in punishment and a near-failure in her mission to bring God's blessings to the world. God responded with an ultimate solution, the Messiah: God's chosen rescuer who would make everything right.

Discussion Questions:

*** *God's Expectations*** (Read Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

1. Why do we struggle to obey rules so much?
2. Why are the consequences for disobedience so serious?

*** *Israel's Performance*** (Read Isaiah 1:2-17.)

3. How does God seem to feel about Israel's rebellion? Does it surprise you to see that our actions affect God that much?
4. What does Israel's "unresponsiveness to punishment" tell us about her spiritual condition? If you were God, what would you do next?
5. How does God feel about religious activity? Which shocking statement about religion stood out the most to you and why?

*** *God's Ultimate Solution*** (Read Isaiah 9:2-7.)

6. Why doesn't God just give up and start over with some other nation?
7. What is one injustice in the world that you can't wait to see made right by the Messiah?
8. Which statement in Isaiah 9 about what the Messiah would be and do resonates the most with you and your hopes for the future?