



The Hidden Stories in the Christmas Story

Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.⁸ "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. Isaiah 55:7,8

1. The story of where Jesus was born tells me God cares very little for _____

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod,..." Matthew 2:1

2. The story of an angel appearing to the shepherds tells me that God cares for the _____

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." Luke 2:8,-10

3. The Story of these women in the Christmas story tells me God isn't interested in our pedigrees because we all have a _____

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ..." Matthew 1

<i>"...Tamar..."</i>	<i>Genesis 38:3</i>
<i>"...Rahab..."</i>	<i>Joshua 6:5a</i>
<i>"...Ruth..."</i>	<i>Ruth 1:5b</i>
<i>"...Uriah's wife..."</i>	<i>2 Samuel 11:6</i>

4. The Story of David and Mannassah in Jesus ancestry tells me God's grace is available to the _____

More names from Jesus' genealogy...

<i>"...David..."</i>	<i>Matthew 1:6. 1 Samuel 16</i> <i>2 Samuel 11-12</i>
<i>"...Mannassah..."</i>	<i>Matthew 1:10. 2 Chronicles 33</i>

Meditations based on this week's message:

Look back over your notes from this weekend's message, and read the Christmas story in Luke 2:1-20. What impacted you the most about this weekend's message?

Why would God choose to come in such a way: From an eyebrow-raising lineage, to a lowly village, to a seemingly ordinary young girl, with despised shepherds as witnesses?

What are you seeing afresh this year in the Christmas story?

Read Isaiah 9:2, 6-7. These verses foretell the coming of Jesus to earth. Verse 7 gives a list of some of the names of Jesus. What are some of the other names the Bible gives to Jesus? (Matthew 1:22-23)

Read as much of these verses as you can: I Samuel 16:11-3, 17:1-11, 32-37, 45-49, II Samuel chapters 11-12 & Psalm 3 & 103 (both written by David). David had many moments recorded in the Bible when he didn't choose to follow God, yet God still refers to him as a "man after His own heart." Jesus is also called the Son of David. How does God can work through people/you who have made bad choices (see especially Psalm 103)?