

Sermon Notes

Miracle Method - 1Cor 1:21

December 14, 2025

I. Introduction

Two best Christmas movies of all time? Die Hard and LOTR Fellowship of the Ring. Pastor Joe

- a. my favorite Christmas movie is actually *A Christmas Carol*... also love original *Grinch*, *Wonderful Life*, *Charlie Brown*, *Rudolph*, *Elf*, *First Noel*... watch all over Holydays...
- b. movies are moments that reveal a message... the Holydays are miracle moments that reveal a miracle message... God's timing is always best... Father is revealed thru Jesus... Lam 3:25... "the Lord is good to those who wait for Him..." Rom 5:6-11... "Christ came at the right time and died... now, we're saved by His life..." 2Cor 6:2... "at the right time I heard you... right time is now... today is the day of salvation..." Job 36:11... "if they listen... they will be blessed with prosperity throughout their lives..." Matt 11:27... "no one knows the Father... except those the Son reveals Him to..." Heb 1:1-3... "now, God has spoken to us thru His Son... Son reflects God's goodness..."
- c. ever wonder why God chose to become one of us... why there wasn't another way... why this plan was best... miracle method helps reveal the moment and message... pray... Isa 7:14... "the Lord will give you a sign... give birth to Son... call Him Immanuel..." Luke 2... "this will be the sign... find baby wrapped in cloth... lying in a manger..." Eph 1:5-7 **TLB**... "God's unchanging plan was to adopt us into His family by sending Jesus to die for us... He did this because He wanted to... all praise to God for His wonderful kindness to us..."

11 days till Christmas. 264 hours. 15,840 minutes. 950,400 seconds.

II. Miracle Method

- a. what's your method (means or procedure to accomplish something) in buying gifts...

Method to my Madness comes from Shakespeare's play, Hamlet. It means there's a logical reason or purpose behind seemingly strange, chaotic, or foolish behavior. It's often used to justify a complex plan or eccentric process that makes sense to the person doing it, but not necessarily to others.

- b. that could characterize God's plan for bringing Jesus into this world as a baby... but a better description might be that there was a miracle method to His love... John 3:16-36... "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son..." **kosmos**... *ungodly multitude; men alienated from God, hostile to the cause of Christ...* 1Cor 1:21... "pleased God thru foolishness of message to save those who believe..." Eph 1:9-10... "made known mystery of His will... according to His good pleasure that He purposed in Himself... a plan for the right time... to bring everything together in Christ..."
- c. what did God's method accomplish... Rom 5:1-9... "justified by faith... peace with God thru Christ... saved thru Him from wrath..." 1John 4:7-19... "God's love was revealed... sent His Son so we may live... love consists in this... that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins..." **hilasmos**... *that by which it becomes consistent with His character to pardon and bless the sinner; renders it consistent for God to exercise His love towards sinners; literally to make favorable; specifically includes idea of dealing with God's wrath toward sinners...* **Easton Bible Dictionary**

- d. this love is so great... Jesus even came for people who would never love Him in return... John 3:19... "God's light came... but people loved darkness more than light..." John 15:18-25... "if the world hates you... remember that it hated Me first..." Rev 9:13-21... "1/3 of all people killed by these plagues... rest did not repent and turn to God..."
- e. what is God's response to those who hate Him... He forgave them... loved them anyway... was kind, good, and patient... hoping they would change their mind for the better... Isa 55:7-11... "He will freely forgive... far beyond anything you could imagine..." Rom 2:4... "do you despise the riches of His kindness... intended to lead to repentance..." 2Cor 5:17-21... "God was in Christ... no longer counting people's sins against them..." 2Pet 3:9... "the Lord is patient... not wanting any to perish... but all to come to repentance..." 1John 2:2... "He Himself is the sacrifice for our sins... and sins of the whole world..."
- f. hard to understand that method... forgiving those who hurt you... loving those who hate you... blessing those who curse you... that's not our method... but it is God's... and guess what... He has chosen people to share that method with the world... including you... Gen 12... "Abram, leave family... go to the land I will show you... make great nation..." Gen 45... "I am Joseph... God sent me ahead of you to preserve your life..." 1Sam 16... "anoint David, for he is the one... and the Spirit came powerfully on him..." Luke 2:8-20... "shepherds returned... they told everyone the message about the Child..." John 15:16... "you did not choose Me... but I chose you... I appointed you..." Acts 9... "Paul is My chosen instrument to take My name to the Gentiles..." 2Cor 5:17-21... "God has given us this task... He gave us this wonderful message... we are Christ's ambassadors... God is making His appeal thru us... we speak for Christ..." Eph 1:1-14... "God loved us and chose us in Christ... so we might praise His goodness..."

Only 5% of unchurched people in America are highly resistant to the Gospel. The other 95% are far more open. Don't be afraid of sharing your faith. 82% will come to church if a friend invited them. Lifeway

- g. can I share a Christmas miracle... you are the miracle method that God has chosen to get His miracle message to the world... that's how valuable and important you are... 1Cor 1:21-31... "God in His wisdom... used our foolish preaching to save those who believe... we preach Christ and Him crucified... this foolish plan of God is wiser than the wisest of human plans... God called you... chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise... chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful... chose things despised by the world... things counted as nothing at all and used them... God has united you with Christ..."
- h. don't be intimidated... don't be scared... don't be bullied by satan to keep your mouth shut... glad you're not a theologian... keep it simple... just tell people what God has done for you... not your responsibility to change anyone... your ministry is to share good news... Luke 8:39... "go back to your family... tell them everything God has done for you..." John 4:26-30... "woman left jar... ran to village... telling everyone about Jesus..." 2Cor 3:18... "gazing at goodness of God... transformed into same image... by the Spirit..." 2Cor 11:3... "fear your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ..." Eph 6:19-20... "pray for me... to have words given me... to fearlessly make known the gospel..." 1John 1:1-4... "what we have seen and heard we also declare to you..."
- i. can I ask you a weird question... are your feet beautiful... if not, do you want to know how you can make them beautiful... take the miracle moments that God has given you and share the miracle message about Jesus... because you are part of the miracle method that God designed before the foundation of the earth... pray... Rom 10:14-17... "how can they call on Him they have not believed in... how can they believe without hearing about Him... how can they hear without a preacher... how can they preach unless they are sent... how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news..."