

December 12, 2010

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Monday

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Last week a dramatic rescue took place on I-285 in Atlanta. Clara Collins, a 79 year old woman with dementia, was lost on Atlanta's Perimeter Expressway circling the city. Apparently, she did not know where she was or where she was going, so she simply continued to drive, circling Atlanta, until found late in the evening. It may first strike you as humorous, then you realize how sad it was, and scary. Can you picture yourself or someone you love circling without end? Such is the plight of most of the world. Lost, neither knowing where they are or where they are going. Perhaps they are oblivious to their own lostness; yet lost nevertheless. How will you be part of the rescue?

Tuesday

John 1:14 The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Did you see the picture flashed across the globe? To save the baby panda, to meet its need without frightening it, the animal's caregivers dressed as giant pandas themselves. They took on the look of a panda and entered the panda's world. That's what God did. To save us, He who is far different than us, took upon Himself our flesh. He entered our world. More than just looking like mankind, He actually became man. He bore our sins, our judgment, our guilt. He became one with us so that He could save us one by one. Cool! Amazing! "For God so loved the world..." At Christmas, the Creator became part of His creation.

Wednesday

Rev. 3:20 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, will dine with him, and he with Me.

I think this is very possibly the saddest verse in the bible. Jesus is not so much pictured here as knocking on the heart of a sinner, but as knocking on the door of His church. The Jews may have rejected Him at His first advent (John 1:11), but too often the people of His church continue to reject Him even after experiencing His grace and love. How do we reject Him? When we lock Him out of our decisions. When we ignore the teaching of His word. When we reject the clear intention of His principles. Reflect upon the ways that you have locked Jesus out of your life in the past? Are you locking Him out even now?

Thursday

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us...

Luke 19:10 "(Jesus) has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

It was a neighborhood invasion. Jesus left the comfort of heaven and entered our neighborhood becoming a neighbor to us. He did so for the express reason of bringing us to God, of bringing us to faith and, with it, grace. Now He is calling you to be an invader. He is looking for believers bold enough to reside in their neighborhoods with a purpose. In a way, you are to incarnate God's grace by dwelling in the midst of the world. Live with a purpose. Join the invasion.

Friday

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John did not want any mistaken identity here. Jesus, born of the virgin, was indeed God in flesh. He is the creator of the world. He is God. We cannot fully understand the great intellectual leap it took for a first century Jew to acknowledge that God had entered the world in flesh and blood, or that Jesus was indeed God. How did it happen? It was not the Christmas story that brought the recognition, but the Easter event. There on the cross God died, reconciling the world through His death and declaring victory by means of the resurrection.