

12-20-20

The Cost of Christmas - Luke 1:57-79

Lk 1:16 He will bring back many – Repent the kingdom is at hand
Zech: God comes to redeem, Bring salvation, Show Mercy
My Son: Lead the way for repentance and forgiveness
The rising sun comes from heaven Turn hearts
Liberate enslaved hearts ruled by self-will

Strange Greeting

Lk 1:28 Greeting highly favored one the Lord is with you
Lk 1:32 He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High

Joseph's cost

Mt 1:21 Joseph's dream, She will have a son, name Him Joshua

Couple's Cost: extended family blame and shame

Double Edged Sword

Lk 2:14 To the shepherds, Glory to God in the highest, on earth
peace

Lk 2:34 Simeon's Blessing a cost to Mary

Mt 2:7 Herod finds out from the Magi when the star appeared

Mt 2:13 Escape to Egypt

Mt 2:16ff Herod's rage impacts many families of 2 and unders

Disciples Cost

Mt 10:16 I'm sending you out like sheep among wolves

John the Baptist Prospective priest becomes a martyred prophet

Mt 10:32 Acknowledge or disown, Peace or a sword

Mt 24:9 You will be persecuted because of me

Persecutor (Make Them Pay) to Persecuted (Paying a Price)

Acts 22:3 Paul a persecutor to persecuted 2 Cor 11:24

What often happens is we retaliate with persecution

Early church

Power of the Promise - Motivation

1Pt 2:20-24 Being who Christ called us to be, speaking the truth in
love

Now – Not My Way But God's Way

Mostly in radical Muslim nations in the Middle East and Asia

Shop vandalized, Run out of their home and everything burned,

Leader kidnapped, Girls stolen for brides or worse.

The Response

Lk 6:27 Love your enemy

Rom 12:17ff Bless not curse

We are not to cure but bless.