

Sermon Discussion Questions

Looking to Jesus at Christmas

Isaiah 22

December 16, 2018

1. The Christmas season is full of wonderful and stressful things. Take a moment and share with each other what are some things about the season you enjoy and what are some things that bring you stress?
2. Pastor Jim pointed out that for many of us, intentionally keeping Jesus at the center of our celebration is an important challenge. What are some ways in which we try to do this? At our jobs, with our families, with our kids?
3. Keeping Jesus as the focus of our holiday through traditions, going to services at church, volunteering and engaging in advent calendars are all wonderful things, but what did Pastor Jim point out was the deeper need? What is the connection between the “who are we looking at” and “who are we looking to” at Christmas?
4. Isaiah 22 finds Israel on the brink of an invasion. Assyria is about to swoop over them. Take a moment to discuss the various points made from this chapter. Why is Assyria being allowed to invade? What is the sin or charge against Israel from God? How does this relate to us and our own life?
5. God is not against us being prepared, he is not against us making plans and wisely assessing situations to come up with our response. As Pastor Jim pointed out, it’s a matter of knowing deep down why we do what we do. More importantly, it’s about understanding who we are actually relying on. Who/what do we look to for rescue and help. How have you seen this subtle difference show up in your own life?
6. We read in the Psalms that our help comes from the Lord, yet too often we struggle with living a life that would show that. Why do you think it is so hard for us to rely on God in the midst of crisis? What in your own life or in the life of your loved ones becomes an obstacle to relying on him, turning to him first?
7. As you close your time together, take a moment to consider what stresses you are facing this holiday season. As you consider them, ask yourself honestly: are you looking more like Shebna or Eliakim? Pray for each other, encourage each other and pray for the Lord to provide you with the strength to let things go as and to seek and trust him.