

November 29, 2009
Dr. Randall Adkisson

Monday

John 16:33 "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

It should surprise no one that we live in a 'messed up world'. It should not come as a surprise that such a world often messes up lives, even the lives of believers. What is surprising is that we can have peace in such a world where sin succeeds and the devil reigns. But we can, for Jesus has overcome the world by His work and His presence. Believers will experience peace in every situation in direct proportion to their trust in Him. Secured in the knowledge of His love and providence, believers may live in perfect peace.

Tuesday

Titus 3:4 But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us...according to His mercy.

What's messed up in your life? Are there relationships that are messed up? Is your sense of purpose all messed up? Have you made poor decisions that have left your life messed up? School? Finances? Dating? Marriage? Career? Kids? Jesus wants to enter into your mess and begin the wonderful miracle of redemption. He will not shy away from you because you are troubled. Look how He freely entered this troubled world. That's what He does. That's who He is!

Wednesday

Luke 2:7 she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

God got dirty! He was stained at birth with the smell of the stable and the mess of the world. Willingly, He involved Himself in the lives of those who were lost and hurting. He was not soiled with His own sin, but He freely and willingly touched others so stained. Ministry and missions is a dirty business.

Thursday

Phil. 2:6-7 Although He existed in the form of God, He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

God's response to a messed up world was to neither hide nor withdraw. Instead He responded by becoming intimately, personally involved in the rescue of others. He did not sit in heaven and laugh at our plight or excuse callousness by pointing to His busy schedule. He left heaven, entered our messed up world and our messed up lives and became involved, personally involved in our redemption. How about you? How are you personally involved in redeeming messed up lives in this messed up world?

Friday

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave ...

God gave the greatest gift of all at Christmas. He *gave* His Son to be a savior. Isn't that what love does? It gives. If we love, will we too not give: give of our means, give of our time, give of our money, give of ourselves to see salvation brought to the world. Christmas, with its emphasis upon missions, is a great time to give so that others can hear the Gospel. Pray about your giving. Then give. Give of yourself. Give of your time. Give of your money. As God gave, so give that others near and far may hear of God's love in their messed up world.