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## "Jesus is the Messiah"

Luke 2:10-12 (NIV) "But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger" (*emphasis mine*).

What is the core of the Christmas celebration?

1. "Christmas" comes from the phrase "Crīstes mæsse", which means "Christ's Mass".
  - a. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ?
  - b. Why is that worth celebrating?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ?
  1. We all have an internal longing for what was lost in the **Garden of Eden**.

Genesis 3:15 (NIV) "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

- a. This promise began a **great anticipation** waiting for the Messiah.
- b. Hebrew: "Māšîaḥ" // Greek: "Khristos" = meaning "anointed one"

**Anointing** was often a ceremony where oil was rubbed into or poured over an object or person that was set apart.

- c. Anointing an object:
  - i. Jacob poured oil over a **stone pillar** (Genesis 28:18 NIV)
  - ii. Moses was told to anoint the **tabernacle** (Exodus 40:9)
    1. Myrrh, Cinnamon, Calamus, Cassia, Olive oil
- d. Anointing a person:
  - i. **Prophet** - Elijah commanded to anoint Elisha (1 Kings 19:16)
  - ii. **Priest** - Moses to Aaron (Leviticus 8)
  - iii. **King** - Samuel to David

1 Samuel 16:13 (NIV) "So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David [...]"

- e. But all **these anointed ones fail** in their anointed roles...

2. **The Anointed One comes as a humble baby**
  - a. Jesus is anointed by the Holy Spirit at his baptism (Acts 10:38)
    - i. Anointed to do what?

Luke 4:18-19 (NIV) "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- b. Jesus leaves off quoting the whole passage of Isaiah, because it finishes with:

Isaiah 61:2 (ESV) "[...], and the day of vengeance of our God; [...]"

"Why didn't Jesus finish the sentence? Because there is a mystery about his coming, namely, that it is a two-act drama. The Old Testament prophets (like Isaiah) saw the drama whole and didn't separate the two acts by centuries. They anticipate salvation and judgment together. The year of liberation and the day of vengeance were all one" (Piper).

### c. The Two-Act Drama: Act 1

John 12:47-48 (ESV), "If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; *for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world.* 48 The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; *the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.*"

### d. The Two-Act Drama: Act 2

2 Thessalonians 1:7b-8 (ESV) "[...] when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels 8 in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus."

## 3. Why is "Jesus is the Christ" worth celebrating?

- a. As Christ, **Jesus rescued me** from the fear of death.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57 (NIV) "Death has been swallowed up in victory." 55 "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

- b. As Christ, **Jesus rescued me** from the mastery of sin over me.

Romans 6:6-7 (NLT) "We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. 7 For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin."

- c. As Christ, **Jesus reigns** supreme over all.

Colossians 1:15-16 (NLT) "Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation, 16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him."

## 4. How does Jesus being the Christ change us?

Acts 11:26 (NIV) "The disciples were called Christians ["little anointed ones"] first at Antioch."

- a. **We are anointed** by the Spirit with power to do what he calls us to do.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV) "But you are a chosen people, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (*emphasis mine*).

- b. We are anointed as **royalty** and as **part of the priesthood** of believers.

1 John 2:20 (NIV) "But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth."

### Small Group Discussion Questions:

**Ice Breaker:** Take a life group Christmas photo.

1. How would you explain to a new believer what it means that Jesus is the Christ?
2. Reread Luke 4:16-20. What does Jesus say that he was anointed to do?
  - a. How does that impact your life ~ 2,000 years later?
3. Do you believe that "you have an anointing from the Holy One" (1 John 2:20)?
  - a. What does that mean for the way you live your life?
4. In light of this sermon, does this change anything about your celebrating this season?

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