

## “Seeing Change in the Manger”

Series: Christmas 2021

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We are looking “back at the Manger” in hopes of inspiration, perspective, direction for future. Last week’s look exposed Yearning. Let’s go back again to the Manger and discover another perhaps unexpected reality.

- **The Manger is the \_\_\_\_\_ for God’s Magnificent Redemption Plan!**

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, <sup>3</sup> and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.”

Isaiah 61:1-3

### **The angelic message to the shepherds makes it very clear: Jesus is Messiah!**

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; **he is the Messiah, the Lord.**” Luke 2:11

### **Jesus Affirms that He is Messiah (Is. 61) in His First Public Speech!**

“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, <sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, **“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”**

- **The Manger leads to Response & Action:  
The Manger leads to \_\_\_\_\_ Change**

“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.”

Luke 2:20

### **The Manger leads to \_\_\_\_\_ Change**

“Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. <sup>8</sup> **You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. <sup>9</sup> You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land.**

<sup>10</sup> The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. <sup>11</sup> Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River.” Psalm 80:7-11

“**Restore us**, LORD God Almighty; make your face **shine on us**, that **we may be saved.**” Psalm 80:19

### **Jesus, Messiah, the Vine...Israel of the Old Covenant**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> **You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.**” John 15:1-4

All Scriptures are from the New International Version Bible unless otherwise mentioned. You may make comments or ask Bro. Tony questions about this message by email at: [brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org](mailto:brotony@itawambachristianchurch.org)