

Better (Hebrews)

Sermon Questions | 12.21.14

Opener

We have all grown up singing “Santa Claus is coming to Town” but we often never even reflect on what we are singing. You see, there is an underlying narrative in this song that reflects a lot about how we view the world and ourselves.

This week Pete discussed the difference between the Santa narrative and the Jesus narrative. The finished work of Christ reminds us of the refreshing gift of grace that we have received this Christmas season as the divine entered our world one holy night many years ago.

Share what your favorite Christmas gift was as a child and why.

Read

Hebrews 4:12-16

Engaging with God in a Group

What are some of the differences between the Santa narrative and the Jesus narrative? What makes the Jesus narrative better?

- Santa narrative: If you are good, I'll give you presents. If you are bad, I will give you coals.
- Jesus narrative: Jesus is better than Santa. He's the Great High Priest.

The Word of God is described as a double edged sword in verse 12. In essence, we are fully exposed before God. Nothing is hidden. Is your natural tendency to run away and isolate yourself when you sin or to run to Jesus? What are some of the benefits of being fully known and loved no matter what?

Verse 15 refers to Jesus as the Great High Priest ... literally the “Mega Priest” who sympathizes with us in our own suffering and yet did not sin. How does knowing that

you have full access to approach Jesus with confidence change the way you respond to failure and sin?

Engaging with God Alone

When tempted to sin, go to this passage and remember Jesus sees, he knows, and he lives in you. Request the grace to say no. This is the divine strength of God himself working in our lives to help us in the moments of our temptation.

Don't hide after you have sinned. Thank Jesus that he does not count that sin against you.

Closing thoughts and prayer

Thank you, Lord, for not counting our sins against us! Thank you for your divine strength working in our lives.