

~~BEST~~ THE WORST CHRISTMAS EVER



Pastor Kris Beckert
News December 10, 2017
Luke 1:39-56

The ~~Worst~~ Best

What's your best Christmas memory?

What's your worst Christmas memory?

What makes the best Christmas ever?

I. What turns the worst into the best is not _____

Luke 1:5-7 *In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. ⁶Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. ⁷But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.*

1. _____ we don't get
2. _____ we get
3. _____ circumstances

II. What turns the worst into the best is _____

Luke 1:19 *The angel said to [Zechariah], "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news."*

Luke 1:28 *The angel went to [Mary] and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

1. God's response to the worst: _____

Luke 1:39-45 *In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."*

2. Our response to the worst: _____

Luke 1:46-55 *And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

Main Point: _____

Doggy Bag: Some questions to chew on.

1. What is it that makes the best Christmas?
2. How do you allow the three "presents" (what you don't get, what you get, and your present circumstances) to determine how you feel about yourself, your worth, and who God is?
3. When was a time you knew what it was like to "have nothing but actually have everything?"
4. What would change if you knew that God was with you and for you regardless of your daily moods, situations, and what you have?
5. Whose Christmas might you transform from worst to best by giving the gift of presence this Advent?



email krisbeckert@thevineva.org or call 215.237.4959 to set up an appointment.