



SEARCHLIGHT :: JEFF HENDERSON

INTRODUCTION

There's something alluring about Christmas, especially contrasted against the pace and stress of everyday life. After all, this is the day when we sing that all is calm, and all is bright. But if we peel back the layers, we'll discover that the essence of the original Christmas story looks drastically different. All is not calm. All is not bright. When we examine the words of an often overlooked character in the Christmas story, we'll find a different perspective on Christmas.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Luke 1:1-25. As a barren woman, Elizabeth was searching for a child. As a priest, Zechariah was searching for a message from a God who had been silent for over 500 years. How do you think they both felt to have God invade their lives so directly?
2. Read Luke 1:57-75. Zechariah recognized that God was up to something in the birth of his son John and in the imminent birth of Jesus. God was mounting a rescue mission in which he would redeem his people. Why would God begin a rescue mission with the birth of a child?
3. Why did we need to be rescued?
4. Read John 1:5-9. This baby grew up to be John the Baptist who proclaimed that the light of the world had come. How has Jesus provided light in your life?
5. Read Luke 1:76-80. God's rescue mission was for us, those far apart from Him--to offer us the forgiveness of sins. And he is still searching. How will you join in this rescue mission?

THINK ABOUT IT

Do you want to be rescued? This requires you to stop running, stop hiding, stop pretending, stop denying and simply say, "Father, rescue me. Rescue me from the darkness. Rescue me from this fallen world. Rescue me from myself, my brokenness, my pride, my selfishness, my sin."

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

How will you remind yourself this season that Christmas represents a rescue mission?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. John 1:9