

Christmas behind the Curtain

2018 Christmas Sermon Series



Why does God care about humanity that He would send Emmanuel, and how does our understanding shape our choices as followers?



Psalm 8:1-4

O LORD, our Lord how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens . . .

When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, WHAT IS mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?



Genesis 2:7

Then the Lord God formed a man, from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.



God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

Genesis 1:26-27

Then God said, “Let us make man in OUR image, in OUR likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

- Infinite value



God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

Psalm 8:4-5

what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of
man that you care for him? You made him a little
lower than the heavenly beings and (You) CROWNED
him with glory and honor.



God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

- Infinite value
- Unsurpassed dignity



God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

James 2:1 (NET)

**My brothers and sisters, do not show prejudice IF YOU
POSSESS FAITH in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.**



God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

James 3:9-10

With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's LIKENESS. Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers, this should not be.



God Created Humanity *from Dirt for Glory*

- Infinite value
- Unsurpassed dignity
- Immense capacity for relationship
- Responsibility for moral choices
- Called to a purpose
- Eternal life



We Shattered Our Glory



We Shattered Our Glory

Ecclesiastes 7:29 (NET)

“This alone have I discovered: God made humankind upright, but they have sought many evil schemes.”



We Shattered Our Glory

- God never gave up!
- God is fiercely committed to restoring His vision for us!



Deeper Dive

- Do you feel more of the guilt and shame of dirt than you do of the glory and purpose God has bestowed on you? Why?
- What makes you feel like dirt?
- How has God dealt with the dirt of your guilt and shame?
- What keeps His work from penetrating your life in a deeper way?
- Are there people you treat with shame and contempt?
- How can you become a voice of blessing toward others rather than a voice of contempt?
- What is one action step you will take this week?