

Broken Halos "Do Not Be Afraid"- Jim Burgen

December 16-17, 2017

(Scripture References: *Luke 2:8-20, Ezekiel 34:15-16, Luke 19:10, John 10:14*)

Community:

1. What would you say has been best Christmas present you've ever received, and why?
2. Who are some people in your life that you'd like to see in church for Christmas? What do you presume would be their response if you invited them?

Core:

1. Have you ever found yourself asking, "*God are you there and do you care?*" Are you asking that right now? How would you like God to move and act in your situation today?
2. **Read Luke 2:8-20.** If you put yourself in the shoes of the shepherd boys, how do you think you would have responded in their situation? What do you think would have been your reaction to the angel's words?
3. **Read Luke 2:10.** Is there an area(s) in your life where you're experiencing fear? If so, what do you think is causing that fear and what specifically are you afraid of? How does this influence your ability to trust that God is good and is going to keep His promises?
4. **Read Ezekiel 34:15-16 and Luke 19:10.** What do these passages teach us about the character of God and His intentions towards us and others? Does this truth change or influence the way you view fear or doubt? If so, how?
5. Jim talked about hope: *Hope* that God is good and keeps His promises, *hope* that God has not forgotten about us and others, and *hope* that God is the kind of God who values people that nobody else does. In your own words, how would you define hope? Do you feel like you have hope in your life?
6. Jim said, "*Followers of Jesus understand that they may be God's answer to someone's prayer for something impossible to happen in a way that had never been considered.*" Can you see where God may be trying to use you to bring hope to others? If so, what is one practical thing you could do in the coming week to take action and bring hope to somebody else?

Challenge:

This week take some time each day and meditate on the following questions:

What If...listening to this talk was proof that God has come looking for you? What if...God's not done with you and wants to choose you to do something you never thought possible in a way that you have never imagined? Then, write down the name of someone you know who needs to know they're not alone and something you could do to help...and the names of some people to invite to Christmas Eve services.

