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More Than JUST lesson 2— a Manger it's not about me

Q. What is the worst Christmas gift you have ever received?
-it stinks not getting something you really wanted; it's worse when it is something you DON'T want

Q. What does the perfect president, king, or ruler look like? Describe what he stands for, what rules he makes, what changes happen, etc.

*Just like we have expectations of who our leaders should be, the Jews had their expectation of who their future king would be- the one they waited thousands of years for.

I. The Glorious Disappointment

A. Christ was nothing like what they expected

1. born to POOR parents

2. born in LOWLY conditions

Micah 5:2- born outside JERUSALEM in the insignificant town of BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:7- born in a FEEDING TROUGH & wrapped in CLOTH

Luke 2:8-16- first greeted by SHEPHARDS

3. went on living a life of LOVE for all instead of vengeance against the Gentiles on behalf of the Jews

4. would die in the most SHAMEFUL way in Jewish culture, never giving them their Earthly kingdom they wanted and expected

*Jews missed Christ because they made the promise of the Messiah all about themselves

B. Christ was everything God PROMISED and more

*Here, take time to write the many promises God fulfilled through Christ

-salvation, mediator between man and God, fulfillment of the names (Emmanuel, Prince of Peace, etc.), Abraham's blessing to ALL nations, set up new kingdom, restored our relationship with God, fulfillment of prophecy, conquered death

II. Our Disappointing Selfishness

- A. We also make Jesus into our personal “GEANIE” when we want something, IGNORE Him when we don’t see any needs, and then even turn our back on Him during difficulties
- B. More than any other time, we have taken Christmas to be a time about US

III. Our Challenge- Taking on the Mind of Christ (Philippians 2:1-11)

- A. Christ gave up EVERYTHING to become NOTHING because of His love for us
- B. This should lead us to do 2 things:
 - 1. Follow His example and be HUMBLE (making sure everything isn’t about us)
 - 2. Because of what He did (as we think about this Christmas) fully WORSHIP Him
- B. 3 Commitments for this Christmas Season:
 - 1. It’s not for me, it’s all for them
 - 2. It’s not about me, it’s all about Him
 - 3. Worshipping Christ again and again

*Play “While You Were Sleeping”

Ask Yourself: What have I made of Christmas? Is it more about me than it is about Him?

Ask Yourself: What more can I do to have the mind of Christ that He had when He came to us?

Ask Yourself: What are some specific ways I can focus my worship on Him this Christmas?