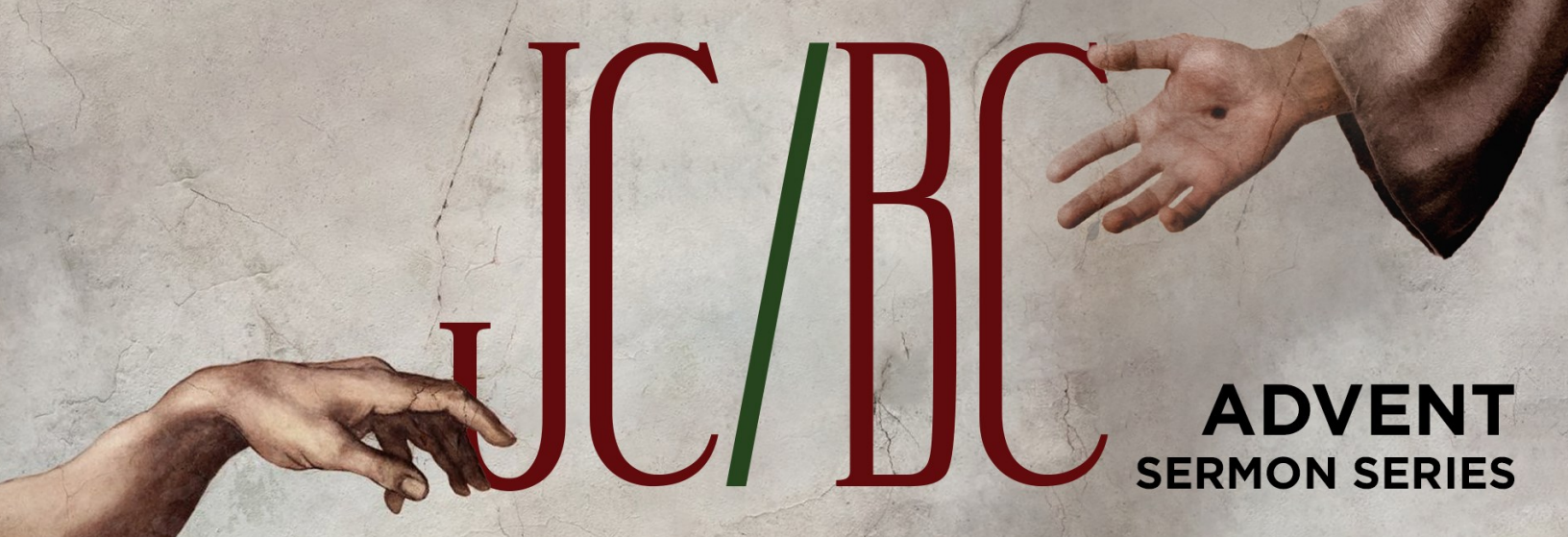




Good News Bad News

- What stood out to you from last Sunday's teaching?
- Everyone answer: How old were you when it clicked that Christmas isn't about presents and Santa but about the birth of the world's Savior?
 - How did this change your understanding of the Christmas celebration?
 - How did it change how you participated in Christmas traditions?
 - What are some traditions that your family has that create an action of worship during the holiday festivities?
 - In a moment we will read together about the fall of humankind in Genesis 3. What does the fall of humankind have to do with Christmas?
- BEFORE YOU READ: Discuss what group participants remember about the fall of humankind in Genesis 3.
- Read Genesis 3:1-15
 - Were there any surprises in reading the account in Genesis 3 in comparison with your memory of what happened?
 - Have you ever noticed the elements of God's compassion in his response to Adam and Eve?
 - In his teaching last Sunday, Pastor Dave taught us that Genesis 3 is a story of Bad News/Good News. Make a list of items you see in this passage that are bad news. Likewise, make a list of items that you see in this passage that are good news.
 - Do you find it hard to believe that God is promising a solution in Genesis 3:15? Why or why not?
- Does it tell you anything about God's desired relationship for humanity that God did not engage in conversation with the serpent? He simply pronounced his curses upon the serpent without allowing it to respond.
 - Compare and contrast the curses God pronounced on the serpent with the curses that God pronounced on the humans. *The serpent: his head will be crushed... total destruction and defeat... death; The humans: hard labor in crops and childbearing... both agriculture and human reproduction are symbols of life.*
- Respond to the promise that Pastor Dave proclaimed for us in his teaching: "The moment that Adam and Eve ran to hide in those trees, God planned to come and die on that tree so that we need not hide!"
- How can you hold that promise sacred throughout all of the pomp and circumstance of the holiday season?