

Outline – December 20, 2020
Matthew 2:1-11, John 3:1-8; 15-16
How Grace Brings Peace
John 4:7-19; 25-29; 39-41

Our Past Impacts Our Present
(The Life Of Ebenezer Scrooge)

- I. **Scrooge: The cynical antisocial**
 - A. How does that happen
 - 1. Mother died at birth
 - 2. Father blamed him
 - 3. Unwanted
 - 4. Believed only through performance and success will
People want you
 - 5. His sister died
 - 6. His fiancé' ended the relationship
 - B. Charles Dickens is telling us what psychologists have known, your past impacts your present.
 - C. Without a spiritual transformation our past and pain impacts us
 - D. Jesus gives a new life, new hope, new start

- II. **What 5 past events impacts our present**
 - A. Our past failures
 - 1. Decisions
 - 2. Events
 - B. Our past wounds
 - 1. People who failed us
 - 2. The embarrassments
 - 3. Broken promises
 - C. The neglect
 - 1. What didn't happen
 - D. Loss of life
 - 1. Things you lost you don't get back
 - 2. Dreams, innocence, opportunities, people
 - E. Promises, dreams, hope you never let go of

- III. **Those who encountered Jesus whose past touched their present**
 - A. Herod
 - 1. A master builder
 - 2. A cynical ruler (paranoia)
 - 3. Knew he was not the rightful heir to the throne of David

4. Was given the opportunity to worship, to humble himself to adore the messiah
 5. Instead, he seeks to destroy Jesus
 6. Never has peace with himself
 7. And loses everything
 - a. Oh so close, yet so far
- B. The magi (wise men)
1. The king makers
 2. The elite from Persia
 3. Their hope was in Daniel's prophecy
 - 1) Daniels mathematical prediction (Daniel 9:24-27)
 - 2) The star of Bethlehem (Numbers 24:17)
 - 3) They believed the prophecies of God's Word
 - 4) They made the effort to see Him (Messiah)
 - 5) They brought their best to Him. Gold for royalty, frankincense for deity, Myrrh, spice for sacrifice
 - 6) They came and they worshipped Him
 - 7) They left with peace, hope and fulfillment
- C. Nicademas (Religious, but lost)
1. Had questions, with no answers
 2. Saw in Jesus hope, peace, life, answers
 3. Wanted confidence, peace, assurance
 4. Heard the truths of life (you must be born again), (God so loved the world) (whosoever believes in Him has eternal life)
 5. He later would experience God's grace
 6. Finding peace
- D. Woman at the well
1. Guilt – for the choices she has made
 2. Shame – identity she has embraced
 3. Life filled with failure
 4. Jesus uses her past as fuel to focus on Him
 5. He calls her into her future
 6. He tells her that "the chain" that enslaves her can be broken
 7. She is set free and tells others about Jesus, who later believed

IV. What about you? (What will you see this Christmas)?

- A. Will you be like Herod?
 1. Deceptive, manipulative, no interest in messiah
- B. Will you be like the Magi?
 1. Seeking Him
 2. Giving Him (your best)
 3. Worshipping Him

- C. Will you be like Nicademas?
 - 1. Asking, seeking
 - 2. Receiving answers
 - 3. Finding peace
- D. Will you be like the "woman at the well"?
 - 1. Finding Grace
 - 2. Breaking the chains of shame
 - 3. Letting go of your past
 - 4. Sharing the good news of Jesus
 - 5. Seeing others believe

**Christmas Brings Peace To all
Who Open Their Hearts To Receive It
As Jesus Transforms Your Soul**