

Responding to Predicaments

- A fire
 - What might we have to respond to a fire?
- A predicament in life ... examples?
 - How do we respond?
 - We tend to use what we think are our strengths to respond to whatever challenges we have.
 - Sometimes our strengths are like pouring gas on a fire
- How does God respond to the human predicament?

predicament = a mess; a difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation

God in Flesh

John 1:1-18

The New Testament contains:

- **Narrative** (story): 4 Gospels plus Acts
- **Letters** (“epistles”)

John:

Last of the 4 Gospels
Written about 60 years after Jesus



The Word of God: enacts and reveals His will

In the beginning God **created** the heavens and the earth. And God **said**, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God **said...**, and God **said...**, and God **said...** (10 times) **and it was** as He said. *Genesis 1*

By the **word of the Lord** the heavens were made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. *Psalm 33:6*

The LORD sent out **his word** and healed them. *Psalm 107:20*

In the **beginning** was the **Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the **Word was God**. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made. *John 1:1-3*

John 1:1-18

1-5: Word=God (the Son), Creator. Shining in the dark
 • Separate from creation. Only source of creation.

6-8:

9-13:

14:

15-18:

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 • Most do not believe/receive the Light/Life
 • Those who believe/receive become God's children

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14: Coming=became human, filled with God's glory

15-18: Final revelation of God, greater than all before

The Big Idea

God the Son

was born as a human being

so that sinful humans

can be reborn into God's family

by His grace and truth

**THE CREATOR
OF ALL THAT IS**

**ENTERED HIS
REBELLIOUS CREATION**

**SO THAT
REBELLIOUS CREATURES**

**CAN ENTER GOD'S
PERFECT KINGDOM**

BY GOD'S WILL

How does God respond to the human predicament?

- He gave what He had: Himself
- The fullness of God in the limitations of a human being: “The Word became flesh...full of grace and truth.” → **incarnation**
- “Don’t you know that **you yourselves are God’s temple** and that **God’s Spirit dwells** in your midst?”

1 Corinthians 6:19

predicament = mess, difficult situation



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Application

- Believe/Receive in the Son of God, Jesus Christ
 - The perfect expression of God's perfect grace and truth
 - Christmas is a celebration of the creation-altering event of the Creator becoming a part of His creation so broken creatures can enter His perfect Kingdom
 - This step of faith is our rebirth as children of God

Application

- Believe/Receive in the Son of God, Jesus Christ
- Reorient our lives around this reality
 - Respond to life’s challenges based on the reality of...
 - God the Son enabling us to be in the family of God forever
 - God the Spirit living in us to comfort and transform us
 - God working in His people and in His creation
 - Responding to life’s challenges apart from God...
 - can’t address the root cause
 - and so can never actually resolve them

Application

- Believe/Receive in the Son of God, Jesus Christ
- Reorient our lives around this reality
- Receive + Reorient = Worship God
 - Facing God: prayer, worship, listening, meditating, ...
 - Facing life: obedience and hope

The Big Idea

God the Son

was born as a human being

so that sinful humans

can be reborn into God's family **PERFECT PEACE**

AND JOY FOREVER

by His grace and truth

JOY TO THE WORLD: THE LORD IS COME!

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM