



Crazy Things People Say About Christmas #2

Matthew 1:18-25

Some of the craziest things people say about Christmas are these:

“Jesus, the central figure of Christmas, was a good man.” Or a good teacher. Or a good example. Or a liar. Or a lunatic. Or a political zealot. Or a myth.

In Matthew 1:25 Joseph, the step-father of Jesus, says about Christmas:

“His name shall be called Jesus.” Matthew 1:25b.

In the Ancient Near East a name was extremely important—it did not just sound nice, it defined identity. Jesus means “Savior.” He is the “One Who rescues.”

Recognize about God:

God gave His Son to be our Savior, not our condemner.

A Savior was desperately needed: Sin—Alienation and Separation from the Holy God—Helplessness and Hopelessness—Indescribable Sacrifice—Offer of Forgiveness through Trust—Rescue by the Savior.

Relate to God:

We draw near to God in a grace-based relationship.

Respond to God:

We respond to God with trust.

We respond to God with obedience.

We respond to God with gratitude.

The sane thing Joseph says about Christmas or “So what, come Tuesday morning?”

The identity of Jesus is that of our Savior.

We live in a grace-based relationship with God.

We must live in a grace-based relationship with others.

Walking Papers

“Practical helps for walking the Christian walk this week.”

The sane thing Joseph says about Christmas or “So what, come Tuesday morning?”

The identity of Jesus is that of our Savior.

We live in a grace-based relationship with God.

We must live in a grace-based relationship with others.

- **Today.** Please read Matthew 1:18-25. What do you *recognize* about God in the fact that He named His Son “Jesus?”

- **Monday.** Please read John 3:16, 17. What does it mean to you that God *relates* to us in a “grace-based” relationship style? How do you respond to that?

- **Tuesday.** Please reflect on your five most important relationships and ask whether you are *relating* to these people in a “grace-based” relationship style.

- **Wednesday.** We must *relate* to God with trust. What do you particularly need to trust God for right now?

- **Thursday.** We must *relate* to God with obedience. What do you particularly need to obey God in right now?

- **Friday.** We must *relate* to God with gratitude. What do you particularly need to thank God for right now?

- **Saturday.** Please read and reflect on Luke 2:10-14 for tomorrow’s message.
 - **Saturday Bonus:** Tomorrow is the third Sunday in Advent. It is the Love Candle that we light tomorrow. Please read and reflect on John 3:16 and 1st John 4:10 and 19.