

“CHRISTMAS: AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD”
Pastor David Brown
Message Notes – Sunday, November 25, 2007

Key verse:

*“Today your Savior was born in the town of David.
He is Christ, the Lord.”*

Luke 2:11 (NCV)

History: God’s Four Act Love Story

ACT I: GOD CREATED US TO LOVE US

“Long before He laid down earth’s foundations, He (God) had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of His love...”

Ephesians 1:4 (Mes)

“The Lord is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all His creation. All of your works will thank You, Lord, and Your faithful followers will bless You.”

Psalm 145:9-10 (NLT)

“I’ll never quit telling the story of Your love – how You built the cosmos and guaranteed everything in it. Your love has always been our lives’ foundation, Your fidelity (faithfulness) has been the roof over our world.”

Psalm 89:2 (Mes)

ACT II: WE WALKED AWAY FROM GOD’S LOVE

“We’re all like sheep who’ve wandered off and gotten lost. We’ve all done our own thing, gone our own way.”

Isaiah 53:6 (Mes)

The PATH out of Paradise: (Genesis 3:1-5)

PRESUMPTION: When we question God’s wisdom

“Did God really say...?”

ARROGANCE: When we try to usurp God’s position

“...you will become just like God...”

TEMPTATION: When we focus on our feelings

“...the fruit looked so fresh and delicious...”

HOSTILITY: When we disregard God’s directions

“...so she took it and ate it...”

“Because you are in darkness, all the foundations of society are shaken to the core.”

Psalm 82:5 (LB)

ACT III: GOD SENT JESUS TO BRING US BACK TO HIM

“This is how God showed His love to us: He sent His one and only Son into the world so that we could have life through Him.”

1 John 4:9 (NCV)

(Jesus) *“I came to find and restore the lost.”*

Luke 19:10 (Mes)

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16 (NKJV)

“...God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.”

2 Corinthians 5:19 (CEV)

ACT IV: WE CHOOSE TO ACCEPT OR REJECT GOD’S LOVE

“Today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse!”

Deuteronomy 11:26 (NLT)

“...no mere man has ever seen, heard or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 (LB)

“His (God’s) unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

“...may you be able to feel and understand...how long, how wide, how deep, and how high His (God’s) love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves.”

Ephesians 3:18-19 (LB)

“It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from – if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.”

Acts 10:35 (Mes)

(God) *“...with deep love I will take you back...”*

Isaiah 54:7 (GN)