

THE BIG IDEA: Jesus came to the cross; we point to the cross.The Take-Off

This morning we're continuing our Christmas series, The Last Leon, and even though we've only had one week, it was 2 Sundays ago because of the snowpocalypse that happened last week.

So, let me refresh your minds about what this series is all about:

- It's easy to get wrapped up in all the activities of the season and forget the point
- Sometimes, it's best if we begin with the end in mind, and so this year, we're looking at the Christmas story in reverse
- The Last Leon is The First Noel in reverse
- Week 1 we had Teen Challenge and we saw a whole stage full of Leons - people who Jesus came for - because the WHY of Christmas has always been a WHO
- The First Noel was sung by angels announcing the coming of a God who was looking for The Last Leon
- He came to transform, and we must never forget that!

So we know WHY he came - to transform the WHOS

This morning, I want us to see WHAT he came to - what had to happen in order for us to be transformed, and the answer is the cross

Of course, Christmas isn't just about Jesus coming to the cross. Remember WHY he came - transformation. The cross changes us, it changes how we live.

So, here's the Big Idea and then we're going to take a bit of a deeper dive into it: **Jesus came to the cross; we point to the cross.**

1. Jesus came to the cross

- a. Let's deep dive on the first part, that **Jesus came to the cross**
- b. Everything about Jesus' life pointed to the cross
- c. If we're working backwards, Jesus knew he was here for the cross:
 - **Mark 10:45** / as an adult
 - **Luke 2:41-50**, esp. v. 49 / as a preteen
 - **Luke 2:25-38** / as a newborn baby
- d. Jesus is the greatest gift ever given, and we don't talk enough about the fact that he was given to us in order to die for us
- e. WHAT did Jesus come to? The cross, and we must NEVER forget it.
- f. Everybody say, "Why not?"

2. We point to the cross

- a. If we forget what Jesus came to, then we'll forget the point
- b. The cross is the point because the cross transforms us in 2 very important ways
- c. One, it changes how we see people
 - **2 Cor. 5:16**
 - "So" refers back to the previous verses talking about Christ's death on the cross
 - "we no longer ... worldly point of view" / The cross changed the way he saw people
 - When we see people as the ones Jesus died for, it changes our perspective
- d. Two, it changes how we serve people
 - **2 Cor. 5:20-21**
 - The point of our lives becomes pointing to the cross
 - How do we do that? We serve, serve, and serve some more because that's what Jesus did on the cross
- e. **1 John 3:16** / The cross was the ultimate act of service, and every time we serve, we point people to the only place where they can be reconciled to God

The Landing

Jesus came to die, and because of that, we go to serve.

So give big of yourselves, and know that when you do, the cross is highlighted, Jesus is exalted, and men are saved.

Let's pray