

Last time Jacob talked about how we can prepare the way for God.

That it is necessary to stop and not be in a constant rush, not to be caught up in consumerism and all that one seemingly needs, but instead to believe that we have immeasurable value without everything we possess. Today we have that beautiful theme Coming...

How do you know it's here? How do we know that God is knocking at the door of our heart? That he is coming?

When did I know that in my life:

- internal conviction that I'm not doing this right - at 17, "this is not good, but I still love you" (story with my mom)
- the angel never spoke to me, God probably knows it would have scared me terribly, but more than once a clear thought, a sentence that touched me deeply and made me cry and I knew inside that it wasn't mine - often these are sentences of reassurance, acceptance, love
- As our relationship grew, our conversations with God became more frequent, and so it happens regularly that I hear God's question, "Did you really just tell that person the truth?" And not just to that person, but to Me, to myself? Are you being truthful and being kind in all of this now?
- At the same time, there are always embracing arms that embrace me, no matter what - I can tell God anything because God can take it and there is nothing that can diminish the love He has for me

All of us here have similar stories. Now let's look together at the Christmas story and how God came to its heroes:

Luke 1:26-38

An angel comes to Mary, who is betrothed to Joseph, and tells her that she will have a child - but not by Joseph, but by the Spirit. It's a bit of a soap opera - Mary nods her head that she will be a single mother and there is a fulfilment of what the prophets of Israel prophesied 700 years before this event - the Messiah is coming.

Luke 1:41-43

When Mary arrives, already pregnant, to her cousin Elizabeth, she recognizes, without Mary saying anything to her, that Mary is in a different state and also recognizes that the child she is carrying is the expected Savior.

When Joseph hears the news, he is surprised and wants to break up with Mary quietly. At that moment, an angel speaks to him in a dream and tells him to take Mary as his wife and that the child Mary is carrying is the child of God who will save his people from their sins. Joseph listens and marries Mary.

Luke 2:1-19

Just before the due date of the birth comes the order from Emperor Augustus for a census in which everyone must enroll in their own city. For Joseph, that means Bethlehem. So he sets out on his journey with the pregnant Mary. In Bethlehem, Mary goes into labour, but because there are so many people there is no room for them in the inn and Mary gives birth to Jesus in the stable. The angel appears to the shepherds and tells them that the Messiah is born in Bethlehem, and the shepherds come to Bethlehem to the place of birth. Later, the wise men from the East also come with their precious gifts.

What can the way God came into this world mean to me?

1) Jesus came into the world as a vulnerable child, not the warrior everyone expected

He has a body, emotions, a beating heart, and I'm sure he might have indigestion or be cheerful when he drinks a lot of wine. He didn't come to fight in the traditional sense of drawing weapons. Instead, he comes to live with us, to teach us, to embrace diversity, to heal, to lead. And in the end, he died and

was resurrected, defeating death and evil. But even this defeat will be by sacrifice, not by violent struggle.

God does not force himself, he will never conquer my heart by violence. He will wait and be patient. Both in when I decide to say my first "yes, God, I trust you" and with each subsequent yes to His plan for my life. He is patient with me, non-violent.

>>>> He comes into the world as a defenseless child - even to me He comes not with force, but with sensitivity. He is a gentleman.

2) Jesus was born to a poor family and the birth itself took place in very difficult conditions - in a stable - probably not nearly as romantic as the pictures show :)

Wouldn't it have been easier if he had been born into a rich family? Did he have midwives, nannies at his disposal?

God comes into the difficult conditions of this world just as He is ready to come into the difficult conditions of my life. I don't have to be perfect first, and I don't have to try. He has already come to the stable once.

>>> He comes into the world in difficult circumstances - He is ready to come to me in difficult circumstances.

3) The Israelites were expecting someone to literally sit on the throne and instead J. is a carpenter who has no business forming an army

I often find that God gives me a completely different perspective. He doesn't exactly say "now quit your job" "now reach out to this person" but He is concerned that I do my job honestly, well, with love for others and myself. The answer is in something other than what I expect - it must be in the way I do things.

>>>> It comes into the world differently than expected and it often comes to me differently than I expect.

4) Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Elizabeth - the main characters have something in common. They trust God and thus allow things to happen.

At the same time - God trusted them first. He chose them for this story.

>>>> God offers the same relationship to my heart - mutual trust. He believes in me and wants me to believe in Him.

5) God is as close to us as he can be, becoming one of us

God himself comes among us to live with us, to teach us, to welcome diversity, to heal, to guide.

He never takes this closeness away from us, on the contrary, after his crucifixion and resurrection he says "I will send you someone better, the Spirit who will be with you". In this moment, God draws people as close as he can.

He wants to be as close to me personally as possible. He wants to live in me, in my heart. He wants me to become like him and for my life to be his life.

>>>> God becomes a direct part of the world and wants to be a part of me.

So I want to wish us that God may be close to us this Christmas time and that we may experience His coming into our lives or into the part of our lives where we need it the most.