

12-21-25 Summary

This message cuts through the noise of our commercialized Christmas celebrations to reveal something profound: we've misunderstood the package. Drawing from John 3 and the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, we're confronted with an uncomfortable truth—salvation isn't about improving our circumstances, it's about complete transformation. The phrase 'born again' isn't metaphorical; it represents a radical regeneration from the inside out. Just as children eagerly anticipate Christmas morning gifts, analyzing packages by their wrapping and size, we've done the same with Christ. We've judged the Messiah by His appearance, His humble origins in a stable, His unattractive presentation as described in Isaiah 53. The religious leaders of Jesus' day knew over 300 prophecies about the coming Savior, yet they rejected Him because He didn't arrive in the package they expected. How often do we make the same mistake? We want God to change our circumstances when He's asking to change us. We want the fairy tale ending when He's offering something far greater—His presence. The real question this Christmas isn't whether our families will love their presents, but whether they'll encounter the presence of God through us. That's the gift worth wrapping.