

CORNERSTONE

DISCIPLESHIP

GROUPS

EMMANUEL: GOD WITH US, part 3

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Pastor Andrew Burns

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OPENING PRAYER

SUMMARY

This sermon explored four reasons why Jesus did NOT come, revealing God's true intentions:

1. Jesus did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfill it
2. Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve
3. Jesus did not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance
4. Jesus did not come to condemn the world, but to save it

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The Birth of Jesus Split History in Two

- Every aspect of our world has been influenced by Jesus' birth
- Our calendar, legal systems, art, music, and education all point to His impact
- Even those who don't believe in Jesus acknowledge His historical existence

2. Jesus Fulfilled What We Could Never Accomplish

- No person could perfectly keep the law
- Jesus fulfilled every requirement and bore the curse for us
- He writes God's law on our hearts, not on stone tablets

3. God's Kingdom Operates Through Servant Leadership

- Jesus chose humility over earthly power and prestige
- He was born in obscurity to demonstrate a different kind of kingdom
- True authority in leadership comes through loving service to others

4. Grace is Available to All Who Humble Themselves

- Jesus came for the broken, the outcast, and the sinner
- Self-righteousness is opposed to the Grace of God
- We must simply "come to Him" with humility

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Section 1: The Historical Impact of Jesus

1. Pastor Andrew mentioned that Jesus' birth literally split history in two (BC/AD). How does understanding the historical and cultural impact of Jesus strengthen your faith?

Section 2: Jesus Did Not Come to Abolish the Law

Scripture Focus: Matthew 5:17 - "Do not think I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them."

2. Discuss how understanding that Jesus fulfilled the law completely frees you from religious performance and striving.
3. Are there areas of your life where you have found yourself striving to "do enough" rather than resting in the finished work that Jesus has already accomplished?

Section 3: Jesus Came to Serve

Scripture Focus: Mark 10:45 - "For even the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."

4. Jesus could have come as an earthly king with all the trappings of royalty, but He chose a humble birth. What does this teach us about God's values versus the world's values?

Section 4: Jesus Came for Sinners

Scripture Focus: Luke 5:31-32 - "I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

5. Why do you think the Pharisees struggled so much with Jesus eating with tax collectors and sinners?
6. Pastor Andrew contrasted Nicodemus and Caiaphas—both religious leaders with very different responses to Jesus. What made the difference in how they responded?

Section 5: Jesus Came to Save, Not Condemn

Scripture Focus: John 3:16-17 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son... For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

7. The sermon stated: "You are not condemned by what you've done." How does this truth combat shame and guilt in your life? How does knowing that Jesus didn't come to condemn you change the way you approach Him?
8. Jesus paid the ransom price for you. What does it mean personally that you have been "bought with a price"?

REFLECTION

- In what ways have I been trying to "earn" God's approval rather than resting in what Jesus has already done?
- Am I approaching Jesus with humility?
- Who in my life needs to hear that Jesus came to save, not condemn?
- How can I live more as a servant-leader in my sphere of influence?

CLOSING PRAYER