

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

**"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold,
I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.'"**

Luke 2: 10-11

So, I'm sure you've seen it in the news that a first shipment of THE VACCINE has arrived at O'Hare Airport!! We are told that more is on the way. Everyone, I'm sure, is holding their breath, hoping and praying that the vaccine will be safe and effective and that everyone will have access to it. I find it pretty amazing that there are people in our world who can come up with these things! What a gift they are to mankind. Being a "vaccine inventor" must be one of the most fulfilling jobs there is. It literally changes life and saves lives.

The flip-side to the fact that human beings can come up with vaccines that fight diseases is that it can cause human beings to pat themselves on the back for being so brilliant. We might tend to forget that the reason vaccines work is that our bodies were created with an immune system. No human being created that. That's all God! To my knowledge, the way a vaccine works is that our immune system sees the inactive virus that is introduced into our bodies and it creates antibodies that fight against that virus. A vaccine would be useless without our immune system.

Nonetheless, it will be BIG NEWS when the vaccine (or vaccines plural) are approved and distributed and begin to work. It will be REALLY big news! Jesus is BIG NEWS as well! He just doesn't get the same amount of press that other things get. The arrival of Jesus onto planet Earth was not a high profile event. He wasn't flown in on a jet plane to an international airport. He was born of a young woman who had no claim to fame at the time. In fact, His arrival into this world was so obscure that He was born in a barn and placed in an animal's feeding trough lined with straw that his mom and dad used for a bed for Him. But Jesus came to make an even more important, life-changing contribution to mankind than ANY vaccine ever could offer. He came to pay for the sins of the world so that whoever believes in Him can go to heaven to live with God forever.

We thank God for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He has changed everything! But the thing that makes the Gospel real for each of our lives is our faith in Him. And yet, even our faith isn't something that we have manufactured. It is the gift of God by the Holy Spirit. Just like with the vaccine which only works because our bodies were created with an immune system, so it is with the Gospel. The Gospel has power for those who place their confidence in Jesus, which we would not be able to do if God did not give us the faith to begin with.

The Gospel is really BIG NEWS! It's bigger news than the vaccine for COVID-19. I hope you have allowed the Jesus to change your life and your eternity.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim