

## **THE CHRISTMAS CONNECTION**

### **CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT CONNECTIONS**

- A. Schedules are interrupted
  - 1. Exceptions made for the sake of connecting
- B. Connections are made on different levels
  - 1. People in your world - coworkers, people you interact with
  - 2. Family and loved ones - makes Christmas connections pleasurable or painful
- C. Giving is also on different levels
  - 1. The stronger the connection, the more valuable the gift

### **THE FIRST CHRISTMAS WAS ABOUT GOD'S CONNECTION WITH US**

- A. God has always wanted a connection to His creation
  - 1. The connection was severed by Adam
  - 2. God established a connection through the Mosaic law - Old Testament with sacrifices
- B. God had a better plan - the Christmas story ***(Luke 2:8-14 NKJV)***
  - 1. The message of the angels begins with don't be afraid
  - 2. God would restore the connection with mankind through Jesus
  - 3. God's love and valuation of mankind was revealed in His gift to us
- C. Making that first Christmas connection
  - 1. Connections are different levels

### **A GREAT EXAMPLE OF CONNECTION IS MARY**

- A. An angel brings an exciting message and a new perspective ***(Luke 1:26-30 NKJV)***
  - 1. The message was that God saw her, and she had favor with God
  - 2. His greeting troubled and puzzled her - she did not see herself the way God did
- B. Mary believed the message - without totally understanding it ***(Luke 1:38 NKJV)***
  - 1. And despite the potential cost - her marriage to Joseph, public opinion
  - 2. And nine months later gave birth to Jesus
- C. Before the message of carrying the Son of God
  - 1. Was the message that she was valued by God

### **MAKING THE CHRISTMAS CONNECTION - FOLLOWING MARY'S PATTERN**

***(Luke 1:45-49) NKJV***

- A. Believe that God sees and values you
  - 1. A function of His nature and love, not your perfection
  - 2. Believe God's message in the scriptures
  - 3. Magnify God in your life - above the other stuff going on