

Luke 2:10-11

Everywhere, in home after home, moms, dads, and their families have been preparing for Christmas. And we're there as well with everyone else. We plan, we organize, we decorate, we shop, we bake. We want every cookie to be scrumptious, every ornament to be hung just right, every present to be wrapped beautifully. We want a perfect Christmas.

Which is rather odd, because Christmas has nothing to do with perfection, but everything to do with imperfection. Jesus was not born into a perfect world. People were shoving, yelling, cursing. In Bethlehem they were rudely and selfishly making a fully pregnant young woman go out and stay in a barn.

And our world today has not improved. Do you see perfection anywhere? It's not around us. It's not in us. And yet, for some reason, we want our Christmas celebrations and gatherings to be just perfect.

What is perfect about Christmas is that the holy Child, perfect in every way, was born into our imperfection to save us from it. Perfect worlds do not need a Savior to come. Perfect people do not need the glad tidings of great joy spoken by the angel to the shepherds. But imperfect sinners do.

Which one are you? Maybe we should stop trying so hard to make everything perfect in our little worlds and confess that imperfection reigns; confess that we are poor sinners who desperately need a Savior. Go home and smash a cookie or two. Put an ornament out of its perfect placement and make it off kilter. Mess up the ribbon and bow on a present beneath the tree. Perhaps this will serve as a reminder that nothing about us is perfect.

And then there will be room in your hearts for the Christ Child. He comes into imperfection. He comes in love. He comes to forgive sinners; to redeem imperfect people. Jesus was born for you, my imperfect friend, and He was born for me, for I am just as sinful as you.

That's what is so perfect about Christmas. Not the way we celebrate. Not who it is that is celebrating. But He who comes to be born for sinful, imperfect people like us. For now we have peace with God. We have joy. We have hope. For we have a loving and forgiving Savior in Jesus Christ. Amen.