

CONSEQUENCES
TITUS 3:4-7

We played the 'consequences' game earlier with a group of adults and then a group of children; here are the stories:

He – Thomas Eddison

She – The Queen

They met – At the pictures

He said – “Do you come here often?”

She said – “Why is there a parrot on your shoulder?”

The Consequence – “they fell in the snow!”

He – David Beckham

She – Lady Gaga

They met – In Australia

He said – “I love you”

She said – “Do you want chips?”

The Consequence – They all lived happily ever after”

Here are 2 Christmas examples:

He – Angel Gabriel, God’s messenger

She – Mary, a young woman, engaged to be married to Joseph the village carpenter.

They met – Nazareth, the place where Mary lived and the angel came to meet her in her house in the village.

He said – “You will give birth to a son... you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High”

She said – – “I am the Lord’s servant... may it be to me as you have said!”

The Consequence – Mary became the mother of Jesus, and the Saviour of world was born.

He – Joseph, the village carpenter from Nazareth

She – Mary, the same Mary as before, now his wife

They met – Bethlehem, once an important city, still connected in history with the great King David; in our story, Bethlehem is the centre of the census as the Romans set out to count the people so that they could know who to charge for tax.

The angel said – “Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord”

She said – – “I am the Lord’s servant... may it be to me as you have said!”

The Consequence – the shepherds came to see the child and went away rejoicing to see the Messiah and the King and telling everybody they met about what they had seen; the wise men came with gifts for a new king born in Bethlehem.

This is a great story and not one that we made up; it’s great to tell that story over and over again, either by reading it straight from the bible, or by telling it in a nativity play. It is a story with all these characters in it, who all have their part to play to tell us that Jesus is the Saviour of the world, or that Jesus is a great King. The one character in the story not mentioned so far is God: He started the whole thing off when He planned to bless the whole world and to do that by giving the world the present of His Son. He knew what would happen: He knew how good Jesus would be and what a great man He would become; He knew that He would suffer and then die and be raised – all for us, to be our Saviour.

There are consequences: (*Read Titus 3:4-7*) In these verses there are some big ideas, but amongst them, 3 little words: “*He saved us*” (*Tit 3:5*) God has made us new people; He has blessed us with new life in our hearts and minds, He has

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forgiven us; He has given us hope and peace for our hearts and minds. He has done this because of His kindness and love and grace for us. This is the consequence of Jesus' coming; this is what happened as result of Jesus coming into the world; we are blessed by God in the most amazing ways. All He wants from us is that we say "yes" to Him in faith, and love Him back and then we have for ourselves all these blessings.

Christmas has this great story; we didn't make it up; it happened that way; Jesus came as it says He came and He came to be Saviour; as a consequence, the world is a better place; He has saved us and blessed us and the world is better place. Rejoice in the story; more, rejoice in Jesus and make Christmas a time to renew that faith.