

The LORD looked and saw something evil — there was no justice. He saw that there was no one. He was appalled that there was no one who could intervene. So his own arm worked salvation for him, and his own righteousness supported him.

(Isaiah 59:15b-16 EHV)

Humanity is thoroughly selfish. Want proof? Click on any news website and it won't take long for you to read about war, murder, revenge, robbery, fraud, abuse, and lots of people taking advantage of others.

“But that's other people, not me,” you might be thinking. True, which is why I invite you to do a reflective deep dive into your own heart in the light of God's law. How often do you choose to do the things you want to do ahead of what benefits others? How often do you justify actions that your conscience is telling you are wrong so you can do them anyway? How often haven't you treated people like a cashier, waitress, or telephone operator as steps to help you reach your objectives instead of people with souls?

The sinful selfishness you see infecting the world infects your soul too. God knows what you are thinking: how you are constantly comparing yourself to others and sinfully criticizing them in your thoughts. He sees your thoughts of revenge, lust for what you cannot have, and constant thinking of yourself ahead of others. Your heart's sinful selfishness separates you from God. It is the reason you suffer, and the reason you will die. Sin is a cancer of the soul, and you are deeply infected. Worse yet, there is nothing you can do about it except die.

But there is something God could do and did. He knows that the real problem facing you is not from the outside, but stems from your heart. He knows that your broken relationship with Him causes all that is evil in the world, so he decided to do something to fix it. He sent a Saviour.

Our service today records God working in time to prepare His perfect gift for you: a baby. And not just any baby either. This baby would be God's Son – completely sinless. Because He did not inherit the sinful corruption passed down to every generation since Adam and Eve, this baby could keep God's law perfectly. Instead of living selfishly, he would live selflessly for the good of others and the glory of God. Having accomplished that, he would take all your sins upon himself and pay the punishment you deserve. He would die for your sins and rise again to prove that they are fully forgiven. He would do all this to reconcile you to God so you could live with Him forever in heaven. He would do all this because, despite your sinfulness, God loves you.

Before we bask in the amazing love God showed us by promising and sending His Son to be our Saviour, let us confess our sinfulness to God and acknowledge our need for His mercy. Only then will the true meaning and beauty of Christmas resonate within our souls:

*Today in the town of David, **a Savior was born for you.** He is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)*