Saturday & Sunday — December 29 & 30, 2018

This year (I) will be different.

You can't be who you are and someone new at the same time.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:[a] The old has gone, the new is here!

Ephesians 3:17 (NIV) so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

Luke 2:8-20 (NIV) And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, **14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." **16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. **19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

1. They accepted and acted.

James 4:8 (NLT) Come close to God, and God will come close to you.

2. They connected with others.

3. Honesty

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Additional Notes...

scriptures that relate

Monday: Colossians 3:2
Tuesday: Matthew 6:24
Wednesday: Proverbs 16:3
Thursday: Colossians 3:23
Friday: 1 Thessalonians 2:13
Saturday: James 2:17

small groups—talk it over

1. What areas of your life feel in a rut?
2. What lessons can you learn from the shepherds that apply directly to your life?
3. What changes do you feel you need to make to draw closer to God?

pastor jamie's prayer requests

Monday: Pray that we can all resemble Christ more today than we did yesterday.

Tuesday: Pray for our teenagers as they study for finals this week.

Wednesday: Pray for Crossing Kids' Club and the Ignite Youth Wednesday service.

Thursday: Please lift our schools up in prayer. Pray for the teachers, administration and leadership.

Friday: Pray for the winter break for safety for everyone traveling and family times.

Saturday: Pray that students make a decision of faith and share it with a friend(s).