

INTRODUCTION

This morning is a great day to say Merry Christmas! This week families will gather together to celebrate family, fun, presents, food, etc., but we as the called believers must pause and worship because a Savior came to redeem. He came in humility and holiness. He came from riches to live among the wretched. He came to seek and to save that which was lost. (Luke 19:10) He came to experience life in every way possible so that He, the Creator, understands what we the creature in life go through so that we are no longer without excuse. He came to understand us, save us, live among us, and make us new again.

Billy Graham

"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas."

J.I. Packer

"The Almighty appeared on earth as a helpless human baby, needing to be fed and changed and taught to talk like any other child. The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the Incarnation."

Matthew 1:18-25

The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

**See, the virgin will become pregnant
and give birth to a son,
and they will name Him Immanuel,**

which is translated "God is with us."

When Joseph got up from sleeping, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her but did not know her intimately until she gave birth to a son. And he named Him Jesus.

I. HEAVEN'S EXPECTATIONS, EARTH'S INTERRUPTIONS

Notes: _____

Isaiah 9:6-7 HCSB

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever.

II. DISASTER MAY NOT BE DISASTER BUT DELIVERANCE

Notes: _____

Psalms 46:1-2

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.

Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with its turmoil.
Selah

There is a river— its streams delight the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High. God is within her; she will not be toppled.

Matthew 1:20

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream, saying...

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“...And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all. God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness, succor in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.”

III. FAITHFULNESS IS NOT WITHOUT FEAR

Notes: _____

Luke 1:26-29

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you." But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be.

II Timothy 1:7

For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.

Luke 1:38

"I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word."

Luke 1:46-49

And Mary said:

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, because He has looked with favor on the humble condition of His slave.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and His name is holy.

IV. THE MYSTERY & MAJESTY OF THE MAKER

Notes: _____

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created. Life was in Him, and that life was the light of men. That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it.

C.S. Lewis

Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.

God fell in love with the characters of the play that He wrote Himself a part within it.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Dr. David Gooding of Oxford

God made man in His own Image because He knew one day He would have to become one to redeem the human race.

George Whitefield

“Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again.”

CONCLUSION

Bill Crowder

"The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas."

George F. McDougall

"Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God."