



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to John 1:14

Title: Catching the Miracles of Christmas

Theme: Miracles of Christmas

Sermon Series: Grasping Truths of Christmas

Introduction: Miracles are an absolutely essential element in Christianity. If Jesus Christ is not God manifested in the flesh then our faith is only a silly myth. If He did not arise from the dead in bodily form, the grave being empty and His appearance being recognizable, then we are yet in our sins and, of all people, the most miserable. If the miracle of grace is not verifiable in the transformation of the life of the one who puts his faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, then our Christian gospel is a miserable fraud. (The New International Dictionary of the Bible)

C.S. Lewis gives this definition, “A miracle is an interference with nature by supernatural power.” One of the greatest miracles to have ever happen took place in Bethlehem a little over 2,000 years ago, when God interfered with the natural way of bringing children into this world, a virgin gave birth to a child.

“The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Proposition: *I would propose to you that one of the best ways to grasp the joys of Christmas is to fully understand and be prepared to tell others about the miracles of Christmas.* Many people including Christians to often focus on the manger, the stable and many of the other earthly surroundings of the birth of Christ, but miss the truths and purposes of God becoming man.

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what are four miracles that took place during that first Christmas season?* Christians need to understand and be able to teach others who came at Christmas, how He came, who He came to and the benefits of His coming.

Transitional Sentence: *Christians need to take event of the birth of Christ and point people to the miracles that took place at the time of His birth.* One being God’s coming to earth.

(Colossians 1:15-17)

The Holy Spirit wants you to catch this in the first division of today’s message, “He is the image of the invisible God.” The key word is “image” (*eikon*) and here it means that Jesus is the image of God indicating the revelatory character of the incarnation. Yes Jesus is man; however, His character is the exact representation of God. (Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament; Word meaning in the New Testament)

(John 14:9)

(Colossians 1:19) This Greek word for image (*eikon*) is sometimes a diminutive form of another Greek word (*eikonion*) meaning portrait. It is the equivalent to our word photograph. It is also used when referring to a legal document which is drawn up for a receipt or an IOU. It always includes a description of the chief parties, so that there are no mistakes to all who are involved in the agreement.

Illustration: Dad went off to World War II

When Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, the Word which painted the portrait of Christ stepped out of heaven, the Word became flesh and He is the perfect replica, the precise copy, the image of the Father who made the promise of sending a Savior who save mankind from their sins. He is more than a picture, He can be known and Jesus makes known to us the image of God and who is God in the flesh. According to the Word of God and the testimony of the Holy Spirit who brings revelation and illumination of the written Word, there is nothing more necessary for God to do in order to show His love for us.

(John 3:16; John 10:14-18; Romans 8:11)

(Colossians 1:15-17)

Transitional Sentence: *There was a whole lot more than just a baby lying in the manger on that night in Bethlehem. It was God coming to earth and another miracle worth grasping about Christmas was God became man.*

(Philippians 2:6-8a)

(Hebrews 2:14-18)

Satan, the first sinner, is very powerful and effective in taking those who do not have Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord and putting into the bondage of sin. Just as Satan wanted to dethrone God, he finds those who have dead souls and unprotected hearts and cause them to dethrone God out of their lives. This causes mankind to curse and reject the Lord, ignore God's will for them and neglect His teachings. They do not seek Him for guidance nor use their talents and abilities for His glory but for their own pleasures. These people live lives marred by the acts of the sinful nature spelled in Galatians 5:19-21.

Now is a good time to repeat that familiar phrase, "Jesus was born to die." He could not have been tempted as we are, lived a life of victory over sin unless He was of flesh and blood. Being man, the sins of the world were able to be laid upon Him. "...The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work." (1 John 3:8) The devil's work was destroyed on the Cross of Christ. (Matthew Henry, Barnes Notes, The Expositors Bible Commentary) Colossians 2:15 says, "And having disarmed the powers and authorities [of Satan]. He, [Jesus] made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross." (Colossians 3:8)

Christians who have come under the blood of Christ are now able to get victory over the flesh, the world, and the devil. The Apostle Paul writes, "For [God] has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves." (Colossians 1:13-14)

The Greek word for “tempted” (peirazo) here can mean to try men by adversity, to test their faith and confidence in God. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary; Thru the Bible)

The Bible says, “Because He himself suffered when He was tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted.” (Hebrews 12:18) “Help” (*boetho*) meaning that Jesus will run to our aid at the hearing of a cry for help in times of suffering and pain, trials and temptations, He can give help and deliverance. (The Complete Word Study; The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible)

Christians who understand what Jesus’ coming as man has purchased for them, become like Dietrich Bonhoeffer who wrote to his twin sister, “It is good to learn early enough that suffering and God are not contradictions but rather unity, for the idea that God Himself is suffering when we suffer is one of the most convincing teachings of Christianity. I think God is nearer to suffering than to happiness, and to experience [the presence of the Lord in trials and temptations gives way toward peace and rest and gains a strong and courageous heart.]” (Citation: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in a letter to his twin sister, Sabine. Christian History, no. 32)

Illustration: Bec James: (SheLovesGod.com)

Jesus being born of the flesh can minister to those born in the lowliest state for He was born in a stable. (Luke 2:7) He can minister to the poor for He was born to poor parents. (Luke 2:24) He can minister to those who are raised in despicable places and poor religious conditions. (John 1:46; The New International Dictionary of the Bible) Jesus knows how to come to the aid of those who are apposed by the religious and rejected by their listeners. (Mark 14:1-2; Matthew 13:53-58) He can minister to those who are being accused of being out of their minds and possessed by demons while serving God. (Mark 3:21-22) He can comfort those who have been betrayed by a co-worker in the work of God. (Mark 14:10-11) He can strengthen those who have been deserted in the heat of persecution. (Mark 15:50) He can strengthen those who stand before courts being falsely accused. (John 18:33) And He will be at the side of those who are being executed for the cause of Christ under false charges. (John 19:16) (Hebrews 4:14-16)

Transitional Sentence: *The blessings of having Christ being man born of flesh and blood, being fully man go on and on and on.* Testimony after testimony can be shared by those who have grasped the truths of Christmas, Jesus being fully man and God. Another truth worth grasping is Jesus came through and to common people.

(Luke 2:7)

(Luke 2:8-11)

(Luke 2:15-17)

The Lord came through and to common people. The King of the universe was not born in a king's palace nor was his birth announced first to the priesthood. No, He was conceived in a poor woman, Mary, who was simply a willing vessel of the Lord and a kingdom seeker. I love Mary's answer to the angel Gabriel, (Luke 1:26) "I am the Lord's servant... May it be to me as you have said." She was submissive to the Lord will for her.

The secret to grasping the truths and joy of Christmas is to be a willing humble common person sold out to the cause of Christ.

Take note, no one is out of the way of a divine visit of the Holy Spirit of God, the call of God to hear the good news can come at anytime and the privilege of spreading the good news to others will come to those who are diligently working in their callings. These shepherds were obedient, diligently doing their work; they were not sleeping, but keeping watch.

Transitional Sentence: *Christmas came through and to common people and Jesus came for our benefit.*

(1 John 4:9)

There is a huge difference between existence and true life. All of mankind who walk upon this earth have existence but not all have life that is truly satisfying and pleasing to God. A famous doctor once said that men would find a cure for cancer more quickly than they would find a cure for selfish living. Jesus Christ gives Christians His purpose of existing and direction for which to live. He gives them the heart desire and the strength to live pleasing lives to God. This life in Christ brings peace and this living turns mere existence into fullness of a life that testifies to the Lord's mercy and grace.

(William Barclay)

(John 18:37)

"Truth" (*alethia*) here means that Jesus would testify to divine truth or true faith found only in and through Him. He is the only source of understanding for the true gospel and in the declaration of the will of the One true God. He through the Spirit of truth can guide in true worship as opposed to heathen practices. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the New Testament)

(Ephesians 6:18)

(John 10:10)

In Closing: Grasp the truths of Christmas this holy season and pray for opportunities to tell others about how God came to Earth when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The benefits of Jesus being fully man so he can be the compassionate Shepherd to the Children of God. Let the Holy Spirit place so deep within your heart the truth that God indwells common people and makes great use of them. Lastly, meditate upon the benefits of Christ coming.