

Sermon Notes

The Manger - Matt 11:3

December 27, 2020

I. Introduction

- a. most important question in entire bible...
Luke 9:18-20... *“who do the crowds say I am... John the Baptist, Elijah, one of the prophets... but you, He asked them, who do you say I am...”*
- b. every single person has to answer that question... what if all these miracles are true... moment, message, method... how will you respond to them...
Lam 3:25... *“the Lord is good to those who wait for Him...”*
Deut 5:27... *“go yourself... and listen to everything the Lord our God says...”*
1Cor 1:21-31... *“used our foolish preaching to save... God called you...”*
- c. even if we don't understand... even if we can't understand... but we see it works... will you believe it... belief starts with the Miracle of the Manger... pray...
John 10:38... *“even if you don't believe Me... believe the works...”*
Rom 11:33 **MSG**... *“have you ever come on anything quite like this extravagant generosity of God... this deep wisdom... way over our heads... never figure out...”*
1Thess 2:13... *“received Word, welcomed it... works in you who believe...”*

363 days till Christmas. 8712 hours. 522,720 minutes. 31,363,200 seconds.

II. The Manger

- a. let's face it... we all have issues... all have problems... all face challenges... all want answers... not the only one to ask, *can this Child be the answer...*
Isa 7:14... *“the Lord will give you a sign... virgin shall conceive, bear a Son...”*
Micah 5:2... *“from you Bethlehem... shall come forth One who is to be ruler...”*
Matt 11:3... *“are You the One to come or should we expect someone else...”*
John 4:25-26... *“when the Messiah comes, He will explain everything... I am He...”*
- b. who is this Child... could He be the one... what if He is...
Matt 1:21... *“she'll give birth to son... He will save his people from their sins...”*
sozo... *keep safe from danger; make well, heal, restore to health, rescue, save...*
John 1:1-14... *“in the beginning was the Word... Word was with God... Word was God... life was in Him... His own people did not receive Him... but to all who did receive Him, He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe... the Word became human and made His home among us... full of grace and truth...”*
zoe... *fullness of life that belongs to God; real, genuine, active, vigorous; even in this world...*
- c. could He be the one... the one who gives life... sets us free from sin and death... freely gives His own inheritance... guaranteed all the promises of the bible... could He be the one... that's a question you have to answer for yourself...
John 10:10... *“I have come so you may have life... and life abundantly...”*
Rom 8:2... *“law of life in Christ has set you free from the law of sin and death...”*
Rom 8:17-32... *“we are... joint heirs with Christ... freely given all things...”*
2Cor 1:20... *“every one of promises is yes in Him... to glory of God thru us...”*

- d. the miracle of the manger is that this Child is the one... He is God of the universe... He is the answer to your needs... He is the hope of all mankind...
Luke 2:11... *“there is born to you this day... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...”*
- e. ultimately, Christmas is not about family... not about gifts... not about church... not about food... about miracle of the manger... we can say that, but do you believe it...
Matt 11:3... *“are you the One we've been expecting, or are we still waiting... blind see, lame walk, deaf hear, dead are raised, is this what you were expecting...”*
Mark 14:60-62... *“are you the Messiah... I am...”*
Luke 22:66-70... *“are you the Messiah... if I tell you, you will not believe...”*
- f. won't be able to see any other miracles... moment, message, method... until you see and believe the miracle of the manger... what is Christmas all about...
John 6:35-58... *“anyone who believes has eternal life...”*
Acts 13:38-39... *“everyone who believes in Him is justified from everything...”*
Rom 5:1-9... *“we have been declared righteous... saved thru Him from wrath...”*
Rom 8:1... *“therefore, no condemnation now exists in Christ Jesus...”*
Rom 10:11... *“everyone who believes in Him will never be put to shame...”*
Eph 1:7... *“redemption thru His blood... forgiveness of sins... according to grace...”*
- g. those are just a few of the gifts waiting for you in the manger... but it all means nothing until you answer the question... *who do you say I am...*

I'm trying to prevent anyone from saying that really foolish thing that people often say... I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on the level of a man who says he is a poached egg... or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God... or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool... spit at Him and kill Him as a demon... or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. Jesus claimed to be God. His claim is either true or false. If it is true, then He is God. If the claim is false, then He said it knowing it was false, in which case He is a liar... or He said it not knowing it was false, in which case He is mad. Therefore, we are left with three logical options. He is either Lord, liar, or lunatic. I have to accept the view that He is God. **CS Lewis**

- h. only two reasons people don't experience the miracle of the manger... ignorance and a hard heart... lack of knowledge and unbelief are the only things standing between you and abundant life on earth and eternity in heaven...
Hosea 4:6... *“people destroyed for lack of knowledge... or rejected knowledge...”*
Eph 4:18... *“excluded from life... because of ignorance... and hardness of heart...”*
- i. miracle of manger is sometimes hidden behind bows, gifts, ornaments... hidden behind PC of *Happy Holidays*... never hidden from those who seek it... pray...
Luke 2:8-20... *“good news of great joy for all people... today, a Savior has been born for you... this will be the sign... find baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a feeding trough... they returned glorifying and praising God for all they had seen...”*

I believe in the miracle of the manger. I believe Jesus is God in the flesh. I have known about Him, but I want to know Him in a more personal way. I want to experience the miracle of Christmas. I want to experience abundant life here on this earth. I believe and receive Jesus as my Savior. Thank you for forgiving my sin. Help me to know the joy of walking with your Spirit and enjoying His power in my life.

God's Glory Has Been Restored To You

John 17:22... *glory which You gave Me... I have given them...*

Sermon Study

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When God made man, the Bible says that God crowned him with glory and honor. **Psalm 8:5**. The word *crowned* means to *encompass or to surround like a glorious circle*. The glory of God was therefore man's clothing. In other words... Adam's whole being was gloriously radiant.

When man sinned against God, he forfeited the glory of God.

Rom 3:23. But when Jesus was born, the glory of God came down.

Luke 2:9. And many years later, before He died... Jesus said to His Father... *the glory which You gave Me, I have given them, that they may be one just as We are One*.

So, the glory of God... which man forfeited... has now been restored to him because of what Jesus has done. When He died on the cross, He took our shame, gave us His righteousness and restored the glory of God to us. **2Cor 5:21** and **John 17:22**.

But what exactly is the glory of God? *Doxa*, the Greek word for glory, means *having a good opinion concerning one that results in praise, honor and glory*. That means in restoring us to His glory... God wants us to have the sense we are praiseworthy, honorable and glorious because of His constant good opinion of us!!

Because God's glory is on you... there is a weightiness... an importance about you. People don't know why... but their spirits are lifted when they are in your presence. There is something about you that impacts them even if they have only been with you for a short while. When you talk, they listen because there is substance and wisdom in what you say.

Also... because God's glory is what raised Jesus from the dead... there is great power in this glory. **Rom 6:4** and **Eph 1:19-20**. When you access it by your faith... you can expect it to touch every aspect of your life... finances, relationships, work, health... everything will receive that same power. **Rom 5:1-9**.

Because Jesus has come and restored the glory of God to you... be conscious of God's good opinion of you and access that power.

Pastor Joseph Prince

1. Read **Luke 9:18-20**. How would you **answer the question...** *who do you say I am?*
2. Do you **believe** in the miracles of the moment, the message, the method, and now the manger? Explain. Why is that **important**? Read **John 10:38** and **1Thess 2:13**.
3. Read **Matt 11:3** and **John 4:25-26**. Is **Jesus the One** who can meet all your needs? Why or why not? What **gifts** does He bring? Read **Matt 1:12...** **John 1:1-14; 10:10...** **Rom 8:2; 17-32...** **2Cor 1:20**.
4. What is Christmas all about? Read **John 6:35-58...** **Acts 13:38-39...** **Rom 5:1-9; 8:1; 10:11...** **Eph 1:7**. Have you **opened those gifts**?
5. Read the **CS Lewis quote** from the sermon notes. Does it help you make a choice? Explain.
6. What are the **two reasons** why people don't experience abundant life here on earth? Read **Hosea 4:6** and **Eph 4:18**.
7. Read **Luke 2:8-20**. How has the miracle of the manger been **hidden** from you in the past? What has **revealed** it to you? Go ahead, **take off your shoes** this Christmas. Read **Rom 10:14-17**.