

The Birth of Jesus

Valleys Family Church Sermon
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 15th Dec 2013

Rd Mt 1:18-25

3 things we see in this story:

A Special birth

- Identify the baby from the picture- Prince William and Kate Middleton's son Prince George Alexander Louis of Cambridge born 4.24pm 22nd July 2013 weighing 8lbs 6oz and christened (here in the picture) 23rd Oct. Jesus a royal baby, and very much awaited by the people of Israel.
- Unique- never happened before, nor will again- virgin birth
- Miracle- Hadn't started trying for children and didn't until after Jesus was born- God was the father.
- Fulfilled ancient prophecy- predicted 700 years before- a virgin would become miraculously pregnant.
- The child was God and also a person- hence 'God with us'. Trinity- an egg has 3 parts but it is just 1 egg. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, but He is just one God. Jesus is God the Son.

Application:

- Do you see this boy as God? For many 'good man', 'good teacher', etc. But Jesus claimed to be more:
- 'Before Abraham was born, I AM!'- Jesus claimed to be eternal and used God's name (I AM) for Himself, the same name God used of Himself when He appeared to Moses at the burning bush.
- Forgiving people's sin- only God can. If you do me wrong I can forgive you, but Jesus forgave the wrongs people had done to God.
- Jesus received worship- Thomas (to Jesus) 'My Lord and my God'. Disciples worshipped Him when risen.
- Proved to be the Son of God by the resurrection from the dead- beating death proves His claims to be God- Rom 1:4 -declared God's Son by the resurrection.

Relevance:

- Going over the edge when abseiling- check rope has power to hold you. If Jesus is God He has the power to save you. If He isn't He is reduced to merely a good person with the inability to actually save others.

A Special Name

- Top and 'different' names 2013.
- With the royal baby this year everyone was wondering what the name would be, and some were betting.
- Some weird baby name- examples- Batman, Jedi
- Here 'Jesus'= Yeshua in the original language and means 'The Lord Saves'. Jesus came to rescue us from our sins.
- Sin=the bad things we do- examples.
- Bible says- we've all fallen short of God's standards.
- We can't get away with anything- God has seen all we've done 'eyes of the Lord are everywhere'
- One day we will meet with God and there will be rewards and punishment. The

Bible makes it clear – 'The wages of sin is death'.

- Jesus lived a perfect life, didn't sin once.
- Jesus died on the cross and took the punishment for all of our sins- He took the blame on our behalf.
- If we truly accept what He has done for us His sacrifice on our behalf will wipe all of our sins out- like pressing the 'delete' key.
- Proof? Rising from the dead on the 3rd day is God's proof to us that the offering of His life on our behalf was accepted by God the Father. The risen Jesus was seen by over 500 people over a period of 40 days. Proves we too will rise from the dead to be with Him.

Application:

- Do you see Jesus as your saviour/rescuer. He went to the cross for you, He loves you. What sins have you done? He died for all our sins, not just some of them. Do you think they are too much to be forgiven? He will forgive any sin, but the condition is accepting Him rather than rejecting Him.

A Change of Heart

- Examples of a huge turn-around in opinion- Susan Boyle first singing on Britain's Got Talent.
- Joseph was perplexed- he thought Mary didn't love him and was secretly having a baby with another man, but he completely changed his mind when God showed him in a dream through an angel that things could be different.
- Q- You may have never been brought up as a religious person, or as a Christian, but, like Joseph, you can change your mind.
- Q- How would things have been for Joseph if he hadn't obeyed what God was saying to him through the angel? God would still have had His way, but Joseph would have missed out on the adventure of his lifetime and on fulfilling his destiny.
- It is no coincidence that we are here today (or that you are reading this). We all have God-given opportunities presented to us- windows of opportunity we can choose to say 'yes' to or 'no' to.
- **Repentance**- A Christian is someone who realises they've messed up- broken God's laws and are truly sorry for this, and with God's help, want to change and follow Him. He has the power to help us change and be all that He intended us to be.
- **Faith**- A Christian is also someone who isn't trusting in themselves but in God. We cannot get to Heaven by our own good deeds- if so, Jesus died for nothing. We can only get to heaven by trusting in what Jesus has done.
- **Surrender**- A Christian is someone who has put God in charge of their lives- surrendered to Him- made Him boss and asked Him to come into their lives by His Holy Spirit. He promises to make us a new person and never to leave us.

Summary

- Special birth
- Special name
- Change of heart

Prayer

Dear Jesus. I'm truly sorry for my sins, please forgive me. Thankyou that you died on the cross for me, today I put my trust in You and Your death for me on the cross. Please come into my life today by Your Holy Spirit and help me to follow you each day. Amen