

12-15-13

Scripture:

Title: Jesus' Birth

While driving through Buffalo after a heavy snowstorm, a motorist noted a cop, apparently waist deep in snow, directing traffic. Feeling sorry for him, the motorist called out, "I'm sorry you have to work half buried in the snow."
The cop called back "Don't feel sorry for me, feel sorry for my horse!"

Now we know Jesus is the heir to David's throne

Matthew shows that he has the legal right to the throne
through his adopted father Joseph

Luke shows he is a son of David biologically through Mary

There can be little doubt here

We've seen the lineage...

Jesus is not only son of David, He is Son of God

How do we prove that one?

No lineage we can trace there...

This is where Matthew takes us next...

How do we prove Jesus is God?

How can we prove it?

His birth, His amazing, miraculous, supernatural birth...

Matthew 1:18-25

Jesus' birth is where he begins

The whole essence of Christianity is predicated on the fact that
Jesus is God come in human flesh – this is made clear at His birth

Predicated??? – ...had to look it up – I really like my
thesaurus ☺

The whole essence of Christianity

Is based on

Is established in

Is founded upon

Is grounded in

Is built upon

Is centered in

And, it rests upon this truth
Good word??? Predicated
Based, established, founded, grounded, built, centered, rests

This beginning of Matthew is almost apologetic in nature
Don't mean that he is apologizing
From Greek word apologia
Involves speaking in defense of
He is defending the truth that Jesus is King

What Child is This?

We sing about it – do we know the answer to this question?

Matthew 1:1-17 tells us – Jesus is the son of David

Matthew 1:18-25 tells us Jesus is the Son of God

Son of David – humanity

Son of God – deity

This Child is Son of David and Son of God

This is called the ***incarnation***

Fully God and fully man

100% God and 100% man

Not a 50/50 deal – 100/100

Philippians 2:6-8

Kenosis – the self-emptying

He was/is God

He emptied Himself and become a servant

He became a man

He became obedient and died for us

Three big words ☺

Predicated, incarnation, kenosis...

Jesus' supernatural birth is the only explanation for the life He lived, the things He did – the atonement He provided

Nothing could have been accomplished w/o it

He came to dwell w/ the lost – to seek and save us

He could never conquer sin and death if He wasn't God

He could not have conquered satan and hell if He wasn't God

There are special births in our world today
Remember the day your kids were born
Getting to be there for birth of grandkids...
No birth can compare to Jesus' birth

We need to understand both
His physical birth and claim to the throne
And His deity – His claim to be God

No matter what the Jews believed
No matter what the legends were
No matter what the critics said and continue to say
No matter what the slanderers said and still say
Matthew records the facts
The facts for us to know who Jesus is, who the Messiah is

Jesus' birth

- *18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.*

We hear this a lot
Specially this time of year
Don't let it become boring
Oh yeah, I've heard that before
This is absolutely amazing, earth shattering, unbelievable
It is supernatural

- *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows...*

Now the *genesis*
Matthew 1:1 – the book of the *genesis*
Same word used in verses 1 and 18
His earthly genealogy on one side
Then... The side of His Father – showing His deity
The book of the genealogy of Jesus...
The genealogy of Jesus...
The start the beginning...

Mary

- ...when His mother Mary...

Not much is known about Mary

We know from Luke her father's name was Heli
She had a relative named Elizabeth

We also know she believed God's Word

What would you do if an angel came to you?
Said you were going to have a baby
You weren't married yet?

Lots of questions, lots of doubts, lots of wondering...
Probably some of that but the main thing is

Luke 1:38

May it be done according to God's Word

She believed God's word
In the midst of everything else
She believed God's word!

She believed God!

Luke 1:45

When Mary went to visit Elizabeth...

When she first called out to Elizabeth – her baby jumped
This is what Elizabeth said to Mary

Mary believed God's Word and she believed God's promises

Won't go into all the background here, all the OT scriptures that
Mary uses – we'll just read what Mary said about what God was
doing in and through her life...

Luke 1:46-55

Mary was a young woman who knew God's Word, and trusted that
what He had promised, He would do

Betrothal

- ...*Mary had been betrothed to Joseph*

Most marriages at this time occurred during the teen years

Even as early as 12

They are betrothed, espoused...

Does this mean Mary has Joseph's ring?

She's wearing his letter jacket...

They're going "out?"

Marriages worked a bit different back then than now

Generally a contract was drawn up between two families, could be individuals, generally the families

This was a promise of marriage

This was a binding contract

Not just a verbal promise, a legal contract of marriage

If anything happened during this time to break the arrangement – it would take a divorce to end the contract

They were legally bound together

Nothing physical happened, and still not much time was spent together...

It was a waiting period, a time to prove their fidelity

It was typically a period of 12 months (sometimes only 6)

After this time the marriage would be held, generally lasting 7 days

How would you like to have the whole neighborhood

Feed them for 7 days...

Haven't had a daughter get married yet

Sons were expensive enough 😊

During the betrothal period they were considered and referred to as husband and wife – no consummation

It was during this time Mary was found to be pregnant

The news

- *...before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit*

Here we have 2 righteous, godly people

Kids to be sure, they believed God's Word, trusted Him

And this happens...

Now Mary knows what happened – the angel told her

Luke 1:26-31

Luke says same as Matthew – they were engaged, betrothed, espoused – they both make this clear – no consummation

Mary knows how all this happens – the angel tells her

Joseph doesn't know

Left out in the cold, wondering...

What a shock – he thought he knew her, he had chosen carefully

She was a godly young woman, knew the Word

And then this happens...

How could this be happening...

He also knew the punishment for this could be death

This is so unlike Mary...

If Jesus is just an ordinary man, born like any other man

Born from 2 people coming together

Then He is not God, He could not be God

Salvation is a hoax, we are not forgiven...

Joseph

- *And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly*

Not much is known about Joseph, even less than Mary

We know he was a righteous man

A righteous man, a just man – a godly man

Just an interesting note

Zechariah and Elizabeth were both righteous in the sight of God

Luke 1:6

Simeon, the old man who was in the temple when Mary and

Joseph brought the baby was righteous and devout, **Luke 2:25**

Anna was another older lady in the temple looking for the Messiah

All these were godly people, Old Testament saints

They were old

Then we have ***Mary and Joseph***, teenagers...

They are also called righteous in God's sight

Quite a contrast in ages

Yet, their lives were called righteous...

Young and old alike can live for the Lord...

Believe His word...

Here we have Mary and Joseph

Two teenagers

Two godly teenagers

With wonderful amazing news

Events happening hard to comprehend and understand

Joseph had 2 choices – he could deal with this publicly or privately

Deuteronomy talks about stoning

A certificate of divorce would need to be given – either public or in private – Joseph would have to decide...

He chose to do it privately

Not exposing Mary to public shame, disgrace and death...

As far as Joseph knew – there must have been another man

Nothing else would make sense to him

He had to do something

This seemed the best course

Joseph's dream

- *20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream*

Looks like Joseph was really struggling w/ this decision

Not sure of what to do

Public/private – divorce or not...

Likely would have prayed – righteous man...

Perhaps as does happen to most of us...

He fell asleep

Now this is not your usual dream

Not born out of his imagination

Dreams of catching fish after fish

Dreams of snow falling day after day

Oh wait, that's not a dream ☺

Not that kind of dream...

Somehow, someway this was real

Joseph really heard and saw this angel

Joseph was thinking (praying), fell asleep, began to dream

And the dream turned to reality

What does the angel say?

- *"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

What's the first thing?

Joseph, son of David

What have we been talking about?

The line and lineage of David...

Joseph, son of David – imagine hearing that

Wonder how often Joseph thought about it?

He was living a life of poverty, a simple carpenter

Engaged to Mary

Living in Nazareth – a little no name town...

The heir to the throne???

The angel says – Joseph, son of David...

Don't be afraid – angels usually say that

People usually respond in fear when seeing an angel

Have to be comforted, calmed – don't be afraid

Here – don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife
Don't be afraid to marry this girl

Ok, Mr. Angel, there's just one problem – she's pregnant and I'm
not the father – what do I do with that little thing
There has to be another guy she likes ...

The angel says – *don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife for the
Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.*

Ok, now wait a minute again...

That's just what Mary had said

There was no other human involved here, no other man

This child was conceived by the Holy Spirit

Never heard of that before...

How is that possible?

How can this be?

You mean...

The Messiah, the Anointed One, the Promised One

This Baby is unique, different from any other

Conceived by the Holy Spirit – this is God come in flesh

This child, born of Mary is God come in human flesh

Come to die in our place

To pay the penalty for sin

To give us the gift of eternal life...

This Season, this Christmas don't get lost in the business, the gifts,
the trees, the decorations...

Be lost in the wonder of His birth...

Jesus came, God came, God in the flesh came to die for us

Benediction: Isaiah 9:6

6 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;

And the government will rest on His shoulders;

And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Sermon outline

12-15-13

Matthew 1:18-25

Jesus' b_____

M_____

B_____

The n_____

J_____

Joseph's d_____