

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

Who's the Baby?

Matthew 1: 18-23

1 There it stood – in the middle of the park. It was a giant Christmas tree. The crowd was amazed by the beauty of the lights that adorned it. But one little girl wasn't staring up at the beautiful lights at all. Instead, she was admiring the small nativity scene assembled at the tree's base. In the center of the stable, surrounded by His parents, the shepherds, the magi and the animals was the little baby snuggled in white cloths, lying in that manger.

She had the right focus. Sometimes we get so caught up in the marketing pressures and the decorations of the season that the real reason for celebration is pushed aside. The baby is what Christmas is all about! 2

Our scripture today helps us to refocus. From the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 through 23, we read, This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because

Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.^{1 3}

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” — which means, “God with us.”^{2 4}

So . . .

¹ Matthew 1:18-19.

² Matthew 1:20-23.

I. Who's the Baby?

Who's the baby? ⁵

He is God in flesh! To point this out I need to share a couple of rather long scriptures, so bare with me. ⁶

The first is Philippians, chapter 2, verses 5 through 11, **Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross!** ^{3 7}

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God

³ Philippians 2:5-9.

the Father. ⁴ Jesus has the nature of God and is equal with Him. He is to be considered Lord. ⁸

The second scripture is Hebrews, chapter 1, verses 6 through 12, **And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, “Let all God’s angels worship him.”** In speaking of the angels he says, “He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire.” But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.” ⁵ ⁹

He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never

⁴ Philippians 2:10-11.

⁵ Hebrews 1:6-9.

end.⁶ The Bible says Jesus is to be worshipped as God, He is eternal, creator of the universe and He will never change. This is why the virgin birth is so important!¹⁰

But Jesus is also fully man! First John, chapter 4, verse 2, **This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.**¹¹

He was recognized as a human. The Samaritan woman recognized Him as a Jew.⁷¹² The people in Nazareth knew Him as a carpenter with brothers and sisters.⁸¹³ He had a human body, soul and spirit.⁹¹⁴

⁶ Hebrews 1:10-12.

⁷ John 4:9 - The Samaritan woman said to him, "You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)

⁸ Matthew 13:55 - "Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas?"

⁹ John 11:33 & 12:27 - When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled . . . "Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'?"

Jesus had human attributes. ¹⁵ He was hungry. ¹⁰ ¹⁶ He was tired and thirsty. ¹¹ ¹⁷ He wept for Lazarus. ¹² ¹⁸ He experienced grief over Jerusalem. ¹³ ¹⁹ He was angry about making the Temple a marketplace. ¹⁴

So, according to the Bible, Lord Jesus was totally God and totally a human being. It's hard to contemplate. God is so majestic, so far beyond our puny understanding, we just can't figure Him out. But, if we could, He wouldn't be God; right? We just accept what the Bible says about Him by faith! ²⁰

So . . .

¹⁰ Matthew 4:2 - After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

¹¹ John 4:6-7 - Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

¹² John 11:33-35 - When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept.

¹³ Matthew 23:37 - "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing.

¹⁴ Matthew 21:12-13 - Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.'"

II. What Did He Do?

What did He do? ²¹

He taught us how to live. ²²

In the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew, chapters 5 through 7, is a summary of the Lord's major teachings. It covers witnessing, the place of the Law of Moses, attitudes, adultery, divorce, making oaths, taking revenge, loving your enemies, benevolence, prayer and fasting, worry, passing judgment and seeking eternal life. ²³

He taught parables about stewardship, the kingdom of God, self righteousness, being prepared for His Second Coming, forgiveness, God's patience and love for us, the nature of and the importance of spreading the gospel message. ²⁴

He showed us how to live. ²⁵

He demonstrated compassion for people by loving, healing, forgiving and raising the dead. ²⁶

Once while the Lord was visiting friends in Cana of Galilee, he spoke and the son of a royal official was healed who was close to death. The healing happened in another city several miles away. ¹⁵ ₂₇

When a woman who was caught in the very act of adultery was dragged before Jesus He forgave her and saved her from being executed. ¹⁶ ₂₈

He walked into a cemetery one day and raised a man from the dead who had been dead for four days; restoring him to his grieving family. ¹⁷ ₂₉

A crowd was following the Lord one day because they had seen Him perform miracles. He took His disciples to the top of a mountain to rest. As the crowds approached He asked the disciples, He took five barley loaves and two small fish and fed the crowd of over 5000 men, plus women and children. ¹⁸ ₃₀

¹⁵ John 4:46-53.

¹⁶ John 8:1-11.

¹⁷ John 11:17-44.

¹⁸ John 6:5-15.

Another example He showed to us was that of a prayer warrior. He would go off by Himself and pray all night. ¹⁹ ₃₁

Then He says to us, **If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.** ²⁰ ₃₂

Then, He died on a cross. That's why we celebrate Good Friday. ₃₃

Why did Jesus died for you? Lord Jesus showed His love for you by dying do that you could live with Him forever in heaven. ²¹ Romans, chapter 6, verse 23 says, **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.** The Lord had no sin so He didn't have to pay those wages. ²² But, He volunteered to die anyhow! He gave the benefits of

¹⁹ Luke 6:12 - One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God.

²⁰ Mark 8:34.

²¹ Romans 5:6-8.

²² Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

His death to whoever wanted them and would choose Him as Lord. ²³ ₃₄

Then, He was resurrected from the grave. That's why we celebrate Easter Sunday. ³⁵ This was to prove that Lord Jesus was Who He claimed to be; Almighty God Himself! He became the "first fruits", paving the way to heaven for the rest of us. ²⁴ ₃₆

Then, He ascended to heaven and now indwells you as the Holy Spirit. He ascended into heaven so the Comforter could come. ²⁵ The Comforter, the Holy Spirit, now dwells within you and gives you the power to live victoriously. ²⁶ ₃₇

²³ John 5:24 - I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

²⁴ I Corinthians 15:20 - But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

²⁵ John 16:7 - But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

²⁶ Acts 2:38-39 - Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call."

This Christmas, be sure to include the guest of honor in His birthday celebration. He is the Lord of Lord's; the King of Kings and He loves you very much. He wants your companionship!

<http://biblelifemessages.org>