

The Birth of Jesus

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-21**

Series: **The Gospel of Luke**

Sunday, May 7, 2017



REDEEMER
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Overview

Most of us know that Jesus was born in very lowly circumstances, yet we tend to forget that His arrival was quite understated and underplayed, with no ceremony and no grand announcement being made to hundreds, if not thousands, of people. As the Son of God, this fanfare certainly would have been warranted. What we learn instead is that the birth—and life—of Jesus were meant to communicate, and demonstrate, a much more humble and sacrificial mission. Thus, Jesus' arrival and His mission were characterized by meekness and humility, as He condescended to become one of us in order to redeem us and save us. As we reflect on the humility of Jesus, it should compel us to consider that **a humble Savior leads to a humble faith**. In addition, it's important to reflect on the historical and theological significance of the incarnation of Jesus, where the eternal God of the universe entered space-time history as the second person of the Trinity, and He took on flesh to dwell among His creation.

Corroborating Texts

Luke 8:19-21; Hebrews 2:5-9; Philippians 2:5-11

Discussion Questions

1. Prior to this Sunday's sermon, how did you view the Jesus birth narrative? Did Joe's sermon change your understanding of Jesus' birth and the events surrounding it?
2. What was the purpose of the incarnation? Why did Jesus need to become a man in order to save us? Also, why is "God taking on flesh" a compelling aspect of Christianity?
3. What does it mean that Jesus' emptied Himself out for us in order to become one of us? Also, in His human nature, did Jesus lose any aspect of His divinity? [Definitely not. In His human nature, Jesus did not cease to be divine; rather, He voluntarily limited the use of His divine attributes.]
4. How are Christians often viewed by the culture? In what ways are these characterizations warranted? In what ways might their characterizations be unwarranted?
5. As believers, how should we understand humility? How does this understanding of humility differ from the understanding of the culture around us? [we understand who we are in light of who God is]
6. Based on how Jesus lived and who Jesus loved, what are some tangible ways that a humble faith should be demonstrated? What are some ways that we should seek to be God-oriented and others-oriented? [we can start by examining our own pride and self-centeredness.]