

A Simple Story - A Great Message

Luke 2:1-7

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

I don't know if you are aware but Christmas is almost upon us once again.

A time that has come to be somewhat complicated.

We have to figure out how to get the right gift for everyone on our Christmas list, prepare the favorite foods and treats for our guests.

Then to send out those numerous Christmas greetings, not to speak of the Christmas decorations both inside and outside.

And then for some there are a number of Christmas parties, programs and other events that need to be attended.

That is why I still love the Grinch that Stole Christmas, "And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. What if Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more."

Or maybe it is that Christmas is a little be less, but that would not have rhyme.

So this morning I want us to consider the simplicity of the Christmas story that has a great message.

- I. It is the story of the birth of a baby.
 - A. Every second of every day around the world there are 4 babies born.
 1. During our service this morning over 20,000 children will be born.
 2. But that is what the story of Christmas is, a child was brought into the world, a somewhat common occurrence.
 3. That is why children love the Christmas story, even the simplest mind can understand the story of the birth of a baby.
 - B. Now I know that this birth was more than most.
 1. It was the birth of a Savior, a King, the God-Man.

2. But he didn't appear to be any different than the rest.
3. We often read the Bible in reverse, we start at the end and read to the beginning.
4. But it kind of spoils the plot. Maybe that is why so many have stopped reading the Bible, they think they have it all figured out.
5. But from the shepherd's viewpoint it was a marvelous thing that they witnessed that night, and they had no idea what it all meant but they believed what had been revealed to them.

II. It is the story of the love of God.

A. This was not an experiment.

1. God knew exactly what He was doing.
2. He had planned this night from before the founding of the world.
3. It was His love for these rebellious creatures that moved Him to send His only begotten Son.

B. Love that spanned eternity.

1. Just think of that, before the world was even created God loved you.
2. John 17:23 "that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."
3. John 17:24, "for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."

C. But God loved us even though we were not lovable.

1. Even though He knew every thing about you, He still chose to love you.
2. God's love for these rebels was not moved by any thing in them.
3. They did not deserve His love but His wrath for their rebellion.
4. Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
5. The marvel of Christmas is that God would love any of us at all.

III. It is the story of humility and condescension.

A. Jesus coming to this earth was not like going to the store to buy something.

1. The creator of flesh put on flesh.
2. That is incomprehensible to me.

B. Jesus, God, the third person of the trinity, became a man.

1. Philippians 2: 5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

IV. It is a story of great rejoicing.

A. There have been many occasions of great rejoicing for this old world.

1. The end of wars.
2. The eradication of Polio, Smallpox, Anthrax and a host of others.
3. It seems that they have finally gotten hold of the ebola outbreak in west Africa.
4. These are all reasons to rejoice.

B. But I am reminded what President Johnson said to Billy Graham.

1. During the Apollo missions I think Johnson said something like that this was the greatest day for humanity, but Billy told him that he knew of another day that was greater.

C. On that first Christmas day God set in motion events that will rid the world of sin.

1. Death will be destroyed.
2. Salvation is made available to all who will believe, believe in the real Christmas.