

- Today, all across this country and across the world churches are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. They celebrate through special services, theatrical plays, nativity scenes, and many other ways. This church is not one of those churches, and there are many reasons for that. The main reason is because we do not have any Bible authority to celebrate Jesus' birth as a church. There is no command, example, or forced conclusion that the church has the responsibility to observe Jesus' birth as we do the Lord's Supper every first day of the week. **(Acts 20:7)** Paul quotes the words of Jesus in **I Corinthians 11:25** when He says that we are to observe the death of Jesus "in remembrance of Me." We have nothing from Jesus that speaks towards us remembering as a memorial anything but His death for us.
- However, I think we sometimes throw the baby out with the bathwater when it comes to the birth of Jesus, and that pun is absolutely intended. We become so worried about looking like the rest of the religious world and their unauthorized practices that we don't give the necessary attention to the great occasion that was the birth of Christ. Without the birth of Christ there is no sacrifice for our sins. Without His birth, there are no examples of His faithful obedience to the Father in all things. We need to remember His birth from time to time and consider the great encouraging lessons we learn from the birth of the Messiah. A fellow preacher friend of mine said it this way when discussing this subject, "How sad to have gotten ourselves into a position where many they have to ignore the birth of Jesus this time of year. It is a great time to teach others as conversations are more often spiritual these times of the year. It may even be a good reminder to us to appreciate and rejoice at Jesus coming to the earth in the first place." I believe he is spot on, and so I'd like to consider the Good News of Great Joy of Jesus' birth and how it should encourage us in our lives.

3 Encouraging Aspects of Christ's Birth

I. God uses ordinary people to accomplish His purpose.

- A. Beside the fact that they were of the lineage of David **(v.27)**, there wasn't anything overwhelmingly special about Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus.
 1. They were from a town that wasn't known for anything special. "What good can come out of Nazareth?" **(John 1:45,46)**
 2. Mary was a virgin and there was no way she could be the mother of Jesus without God's intervention. **(Luke 1:27-38)**
 3. Mary had a very humble mindset and recognized that there wasn't anything special about her, yet she recognized the great honor that was being laid up her. **(Luke 1:46-55)**
- B. God can use even the least of us to do much good for His Kingdom.
 1. God many times has used normal people to accomplish His will and purpose.
 2. Moses was a runaway from Egypt who was living as a shepherd when he was called by God to lead His people out of Egyptian bondage. **(Exodus 3)**
 3. David was just a shepherd boy, yet he was God's anointed king of Israel. **(I Samuel 16)**
 4. The men that Jesus had picked were just ordinary men. They were nothing special and they held normal occupations as fisherman, tax collectors, doctors, etc. Regardless, they were very useful in the Lord's ministry and beyond into the beginnings of the church.
 5. We don't have to be something special or amazing to be useful in the Lord's Kingdom. We must just be obedient and be thankful for what we can do to strengthen those who are around us and the Church as a whole. **(II Timothy 2:20,21)**

II. God will do as He has promised.

- A. Throughout the story of the birth of Jesus, God is continually fulfilling promises that He had made before.
 1. The prophets of God foretold of many aspects of Christ's birth many years before it occurred. (**Matt. 1:22**)
 - a) The virgin birth and His name were prophesied of in **Isaiah 7:14**.
 - b) The birth place of Bethlehem for the Christ was foretold in **Micah 5:2**.
 - c) His lineage was prophesied in **Genesis 12 (Abraham), 26 (Isaac), 28 (Jacob), & 49 (Judah)** and also in **Isaiah 9 (Jesse) & 11 (David)**.
 - d) Many other prophecies were also fulfilled through the entirety of Jesus' life.
 2. Anna the prophetess was well aware of the promised redeemer of Jerusalem that God had promised. (**Luke 2:38**)
 3. God had promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah. He recognized the fulfillment of God's promise to him. (**Luke 2:25-32**)
- B. God will fulfill every single promise He has made to us.
 1. He has already fulfilled His promises of salvation to all people into one body. (**Acts 15:15-18**)
 2. He has promised the forgiveness of sins to all those who would repent and be baptized. (**Acts 2:38**)
 3. He has promised strength and escape from temptation if we will put our faith and trust in Him to overcome. (**I Cor. 10:13**)
 4. He has promised the crown of life to those who persevere, remain faithful, and love Him in this life. (**James 1:12**)

III. Jesus loved us enough to humble Himself for us.

- A. Christ became a man as we and wasn't even born into any type of an illustrious family or situation.
 1. Jesus left the perfect home of heaven to come down and live as a man for us. (**Phil. 2:5-8**)
 2. His entrance into this life was not an illustrious one.
 3. He was born in a barn, and His first bed was a manger. (**Luke 2:7**)
 4. His parents were not of any type of royalty.
 5. His birth was nothing to be amazed at. Just normal for us, but extremely lowly for the Son of God.
- B. We must humble ourselves for Him just as He did for us.
 1. Jesus said that the one who desires to come and follow Him must deny himself and take up his cross. (**Luke 9:57ff**)
 2. We must be willing to humble ourselves and conform to His standards in within the church in regards to authority. We must abide within the doctrine of Christ. (**II John 9**)
 3. We must be willing to humble ourselves and conform to His standards in our personal lives. That might mean that we don't excel in the things of this life because we are not focused on having everything this life has to offer. (**Matt. 6:19-21**)
 4. We don't seek our own, but we seek what The Lord would have for us. Our focus is on the will of Jesus Christ. (**Gal. 2:20**)

The story of Christ's birth should be a story that encourages us so much in our faith. We, even as lowly sinners, can be used for the glory of God. We can be of great service for the Lord and His purpose. We can be encouraged by the fact that God will always fulfill His promises to us! He will never let us down and anything He has said will surely come to pass. We can be encouraged to be humble before the Lord. Jesus humbled Himself so that we might have life and we can give our lives for Him in all that we do as well. May God help us to always remember these things. Jesus and our faith are not seasonal subjects. Every things day we can be encouraged by the wonderful lessons that we learn from the birth of Jesus Christ the Messiah of the Most High God.