

MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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The Celebration Should Never End

Dear Friend,

The Christmas season is coming to a close. Gifts have been given and soon it will be time to store away all those decorations until next year. Before we turn the page on another Christmas and file away all those warm “Christmas feelings” let’s take a moment to appreciate the fact that Christmas isn’t supposed to be a once a year event that we turn on and off. The idea of eagerly awaiting one big day is what usually leaves us feeling empty once it passes. The next thing you know you’re having to pull yourself up by the bootstraps and face winter head on. Just because December 25th comes and goes does not mean we should ever stop the celebration of Jesus.

Much of the problem is that the awe and amazement of God leaving His home that He had always known and joining His creation on Earth to save us, has become obscured by gifts and decorated trees and old men dressed in red suits. This is a testament to the deceptiveness of the enemy who is so good at diverting our attention away from truth. To prove this point, let me ask you; “During this Christmas season how often did your thoughts turn to the love our heavenly Father must have for us, demonstrated by His willingness to send Jesus into the earth to save us?” All too often we are being inundated by the commercials trying to get us to think of more ways to spend money.

Furthermore, even when it comes to the actual birth of Jesus into the earth, I would imagine most people only think of the baby Jesus lying in a manger. As beautiful as this is, why is it that so little thought is given to the significance of the fact that God Himself willingly joined His creation in order to save His creation from eternal damnation?

We need to consider **the cost** required by God for Jesus to lay in that manger and to be clothed in human flesh. We need to appreciate the fact that this was the culmination of a plan conceived in the heart of God before the foundation of the world. We have to stop seeing Him as though He was just this little baby and realize this is God, the second member of the Godhead, who willing became the

“Only begotten Son Of God, a position that had never before existed until He was conceived by the Holy Ghost in Mary’s womb. This should by no means be a once a year event, but instead it should be something we celebrate every day of our lives.

When we think about Jesus as the Word in heaven prior to His arrival on earth and consider what it must have been like for the Creator to take on the form of His own creation, what a monumental event that must have been. God joined us in our plight in order to deliver us out of death and into life. The first question that comes to mind is why? “Why, God, were You willing to go through all the pain and anguish of joining us in human flesh and leave behind all you had ever known? That’s the question we want to answer. I believe that with this answer the light of revelation will shine in our hearts and expose any wrong ideas we might have about God and His great love for us.

The Apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians this description of what Jesus willingly undertook in order to join us on this earth. (Philippians 2:5-11)

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: (6) Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (7) But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (8) And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.”

One reason we have such difficulty appreciating all the implications of God being born in human flesh is because “**organized religion**” refuses to present Jesus as He truly existed. Case in point: this year when I went to buy stamps for our Christmas cards our post office was out of the stamps we wanted. I was stuck having to buy a stamp picturing Mary holding baby Jesus and both of them had rings of light around their heads; halos. I hope this doesn’t bust your bubble, but the Bible doesn’t ever mention a halo of light around the head of either baby Jesus or Mary. This picture is a fabrication of the truth meant to elevate Mary to divine status, which is not the truth, and to present Jesus as only God and not the God-Man.

As baby Jesus lay in that manger, He represented the fruit of the covenant God chose to enter into with a man He renamed Abraham. By God choosing to join

Himself to Abraham in a covenant he was laying the foundation for what culminated in the birth of the combination of humanity and deity in one individual, Jesus, the all God all man.

One point that must be made, which is rarely ever mentioned, is that by the second member of the Godhead leaving His eternal home and joining man in human flesh, God was forever altering Himself by taking on the form of humanity for the sake of mankind's salvation. Once He was here in the form of man, **what legal way could Jesus have rejoined God in Heaven other than through death and His subsequent resurrection?** In other words, Jesus was born into this world, forever altering Himself, with only one way out, death, and still He was willing to come.

Now, in case you have the mistaken impression that what Jesus did for us was some last minute, last ditch effort to save mankind, think again. God didn't just decide one day that He had had enough and it was time to send Jesus to redeem mankind. It seems that when we focus all our attention on the baby Jesus lying in the manger we lose sight of the fact that an unfathomable number of events had to previously take place in order for the Word to be made flesh. In addition to the numerous events that had to take place, the final result of Jesus being born into the earth could not violate God's own law of human reproduction as the means by which legal entrance is made into this world. Any violation of this would have broken God's own law established in Genesis. (Genesis 1:28)

"...be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..."

This command by God outlines the only legal way to gain entry into this world, and why John wrote the following statement. (John 10:1)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

There is only one legal way to enter into this world and it is through the womb of a woman. That being said, God still didn't one day, arbitrarily, select Mary to be the birth mother of Jesus. The plan for mankind's redemption was established before the foundations of the earth. (Ephesians 1:3-4)

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: (4) According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

The legal entry point for man into the earth was set in Genesis, but what about the selection of woman to be the avenue by which satan's demise was executed? That was set in the garden, after mankind's fall when God spoke these words: (Genesis 3:15)

“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel.”

The moment God spoke these words the demise of satan was set forever and a woman would be the one through whom satan's demise would come. This was the first verbal piece of the puzzle God spoke into existence. Notice the use of the word; “seed”. God said there would be “enmity”, meaning hatred and hostility between the seed of satan and the seed of the woman. As you well know, women are not the carriers of the reproductive seed, but rather the egg. The “seed” carried by the woman was in fact speaking specifically about Jesus being carried by Mary in her womb. Isn't it interesting that in the parable of the sower, found in Luke 8, it says this about the seed; (Luke 8:11)

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.”

We will see later in John's Gospel, John wrote that the Word was made flesh. (John 1:14) The “Seed” of God's Word was released throughout the centuries until finally the “Seed was made flesh” and His name is Jesus.

Another point rarely talked about is the “seed” of the serpent. What was the “seed” God spoke of that would be at odds with “her seed”? Since the devil has no possible way to reproduce more demons we are left wondering who is this “seed” of satan that the “seed” of the woman would be in conflict with? Jesus gave us the answer when He identified the Pharisees. (John 8:44)

“You are of your father the devil.”

The devil was not just the father of the Pharisees, he is the spiritual father of anyone who has not made Jesus Christ the Lord of their life. This should help us to understand why it is that the world we live in seems so resistant to the gospel of Jesus Christ. God told us the reason all those centuries ago. Those who are not born again are of their father the devil and the resistance we feel is the enmity God said would exist between us. This explains why the world takes every opportunity to silence believers. It also explains why such a beautiful opportunity to celebrate the birth of God's Son into the earth is met with commercialization and endless attempts to remove Christ from Christmas. It's

like the devil fights to concede defeat over the one day a year celebration, but the very next day know that as far as he is concerned the celebration is over!

I encourage you to look at all your heavenly Father has done in bringing Jesus into this world to redeem us and give us entry into God's family. Rejoice in the fact that the second member of the Godhead willingly altered Himself for all of eternity by leaving His position as all God and being born into this world as **all God all man** with only one way out of this world; death. I'm not sure that we can ever fully comprehend the cost God was willing to incur to save us, at least not while still in this world. If you will just take some time to appreciate what it must have been like for these words of John to take place. (John 1:14)

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (And we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”

Don't allow the miracle of the Word being made flesh to become a once a year celebration. This miracle and the miracle of the new birth should be celebrated every day of our lives. In fact, the celebration should never end until we take our celebrating into eternity where it will continue forever.

~ Jesus Loves You!

Mark Jenkins