

SERMON: LOOK INTO THE MANGER

Luke 2:16

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Introduction

The Christmas story is so familiar to many of us until if we are not careful, its meaning and impact can be easily taken for granted. To paraphrase C.S. Lewis: We must make sure that the things which are well-known are known well to all. We must never lose the mystery and the majesty of the Christmas story. You know the details: Gabriel's announcement to Mary, the virgin birth, the guiding star, the angels singing, the shepherd's trip to the manger, and of course, much, much more.

Because there was no room in the inn, Mary and Joseph had to spend the night in a barn and when Jesus was born an animal feeding trough was repurposed as His first baby bed. The shepherds received a special invitation and they responded to the RSVP with their feet, by making hast to get to the Christ child. They were amazed and worshipped and glorified the child. Their worship did not cease when they departed. It continued as they witnessed to everyone they met.

Yet, the shepherds did not have our spiritual vantage point. The gospels had not been written, Paul's letters had not been penned, and they did not have the advantage of centuries of theological insight and analysis. As we look into the manger with our spiritual eyes, even though they were eye witnesses, we should see much more than the shepherds. So let's look again into the manger. There was a little bitty baby sleeping in it, but there was much, much more. Here are a few of the things I know we will see.

Exposition

1. Promises Made and Promises Kept.

(Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6-7. Isaiah 60:1-6.)

2. God's Best Gift of Love.

(John 3:16; 2nd Corinthians 9:15.)

3. The Savior of Humankind.

(Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:77.)

4. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

(1st Timothy 6:15; Revelation 17:14; Revelation 19:16.)

5. One Worthy Of Adoration And Praise.

(Hebrews 2:9; Revelation 4:11; Revelation 5:13.)

Closing Statements

The Christmas story is a beautiful, assuring paradox. God can become small enough to enter our situations, yet He is big enough to meet all of the needs of those situations. He is truly worthy of our praise. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

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