

Title: "Three Pictures of Christmas"

Scripture: Luke 1:30-33

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

Date: December 21, 2014

Luke 1:30-33 *"And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."*

During the first 300 years of Christianity, Christmas wasn't recognized. This is why we don't find the word "Christmas" in the Bible. Men began to recognize Christmas on December 25th, in the year AD 354.

In Luke 2:7 says "and she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." This is interesting because it says there was no room for the inn. We are living in day and time where people think it is so insulting to hear that Christmas is about Jesus. The world sees the materialistic side of Christmas. They are more concerned with rushing around giving gifts. They are crowding their lives with the things they need to do. Christmas has become a time of mass sales and depression because people can't afford to provide gifts for family. The true meaning of Christmas has been taken away and has been forgotten by the world and Christians both.

Titles of Three Pictures that are Shown in the Birth of Christ:

1. **"One Night"**: Luke 2:8-11 *"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* In one night history was changed. In one night God changed the course of eternity and history. In one night God caused his son to be born of a woman and changed everything that would take place thereafter.
2. **"The Star"**: Matthew 2:1-2 *"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."* There are many Christmas worship songs written about the star. There was something unique about that one star among the millions of other stars in the sky that night. It outshined them all. It signified a fulfilment of Old Testament prophecies. In Isaiah 9:2 it says *"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."* It guided the wise men to provide a witness. It guided them so that they might be witnesses of the baby who was to be called Jesus. We don't know how many wise men there were – could have three or it could have been hundreds. However, we do know that three gifts were presented: gold, frankincense, and myrrh – and they were symbols. The gold was symbolic of Christ's deity. The frankincense was symbolic of Christ's purity. The myrrh was symbolic of Christ's suffering and death that he would face thirty-three years later.
3. **"One Child"**: Luke 2:11-16 *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."* The shepherds didn't journey to see Mary and Joseph – they traveled to see Christ.

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We make a big deal about babies being born today. How would we react if we had the opportunity to see the savior born? That one child would come to provide and meet the needs of every single person in the world. That one child transformed this world. 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."*

It is hard for us to imagine all of the things God is capable of. It's difficult to imagine both God and man being present in the same body, but that's why this birth was a spectacular sight. It was something that had never been seen and will never be witnessed again.