

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



Jesus Is God With Us

Luke 2:8-20

December 18, 2016

Some of us have heard the Christmas story so much that we are no longer moved by the sheer awesomeness of God coming to be with us. Without question, this is the second major event since creation itself. We must rediscover the massive importance of the coming into human flesh by God Himself, because the whole weight of the Christian faith rests on this proposition. If this did not happen, nothing remains of Christianity. The Son of God, the second person of the triune God, voluntarily assumed a human body and a human nature. Someone has put it this way: "God did not send Christ to us; God came to us in Christ." Jesus is truly God and truly man; He had the impossible task of coming over to our side without leaving His own side.

THE FACT OF HIS COMING

The region of Galilee was not a politically correct choice. Judea was in the heart of Israel, while Galilee was up in the hills, and a bit backward. Nazareth was a surprising choice because it was filled with corruption and immorality. In **John 1:46, Nathaniel summed up its reputation: "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"**

When God wanted to make life-changing announcements, He dispatched Gabriel.

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. ²⁸Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" ²⁹Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!" ³⁴Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin." ³⁵The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.

THE MIRACLE OF HIS COMING

Larry King was once asked the question, "If you could select any one person across all of history to interview, who would it be?" King answered by saying that he would like to sit

down and talk with Jesus Christ: "I would like to ask him if he was indeed virgin-born. The answer to that question would define history for me."

There is no doubt that Jesus was born of a virgin and that He alone has defined history. And this was not just something thought of at the last minute. It was prophesied over 500 years earlier in **Isaiah 7:14**. **"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.**

What is so significant about being conceived by a female only? Why would Jesus have to be conceived without a father? Because only blood can transfer life, and biologically, only the father can cause blood to form in the body of a baby.

Dr. Martin R. DeHaan says, *"It is now definitely known that the blood which flows in an unborn babies arteries and veins is not derived from the mother but is produced within the body of the foetus itself only after the introduction of the male sperm. An unfertilized ovum can never develop blood since the female egg does not by itself contain the elements essential for the production of this blood. It is only after the male element has entered the ovum that blood can develop. As a very simple illustration of this, think of the egg of a hen. An unfertilized egg is just an ovum on a much larger scale than the human ovum. You may incubate this unfertilized hens egg but it will never develop. It will decay and become rotten, but no chick will result. Let that egg be fertilized by the introduction of the male sperm and incubation will bring to light the presence of LIFE IN THAT EGG. After a few hours it visibly develops. In a little while red streaks occur in the egg denoting the presence of blood. This can never occur and does never occur until THE MALE SPERM HAS BEEN UNITED WITH THE FEMALE OVUM. The male element has added life to the egg.*

Life is in the blood according to scripture, for Moses says:
"For the life of the flesh is in the blood." (Leviticus 17:11). "For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof." —Leviticus 17:14

1 John 4:2-3

This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

That's why, in the words of the hymn by Lewis Jones,
"There is power, power, wonder-working pow'r in the blood of the Lamb;
There is power, power, wonder-working power in the precious blood of the Lamb."

1 Timothy 3:16

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.