



“Do You Know The New Born?”

Matthew 1:25; Luke 1:31-35; John 5:19-27; 6:35-40

And they called Him Jesus. At this name every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. He shall rule all nations and the government will be in His hands. No human has had more written about Him than Jesus has. Thousands of scholars, theologians, and spiritual gurus have interpreted the life of this prophet. No person throughout the ages has garnered so much attention on either side of one's belief system. Some have called Him an anointed Savior for the masses while others have regulated Him into the historical chambers of an ancient troublemaker, rebel rouser. Regardless of how one may understand the life of Jesus, one is forced to make a final decision. Do I believe who they say He is and obey while I follow Him, or do I simply read this ancient biographical sketch as an enthralling part of history?

As I once again face the annual, awesome challenge of sharing a word from God to a congregation who has heard, and or been told, the story about the birth of Jesus, I felt a sense of emptiness. They know the story of the miracle birth. They have seen the manger scene in their minds a thousand times. They actually know the Magi or Wisemen by name. They have rightly or wrongly cursed and condemned the “innkeeper” for his inability to recognize heavenly royalty. They know Mary's conversation with the angel and her confused acceptance of the challenge given her by God. Everyone is familiar and sympathetic with the plight of the young carpenter when he was told of his fiancé giving birth when they personally had not consummated their marriage.

This annual saga warms the heart of many and for a few days forces the world to use strange words like peace, happiness, joy and love. With all of the repetitive routines of the season, “God, yes, God” put a penetrating thought in my spirit. I could not shake the thought which chided me to wonder with all of the knowledge about the birth of Jesus, did people really know and understand WHO WAS THE NEW BORN? Ridiculous! Everyone in the Christian faith knows who Jesus Christ is and why He came to earth, but then a powerful overriding thought came to me, if they knew WHO THE NEW BORN was they would change their lives and the world would truly experience peace.

The answer to this sermon's question is found in Matthew 1:25; Luke 1:31-35; John 5:19-27; 6:32-40. Study these verses and other related verses as the Holy Spirit leads you to appreciate that the Newborn was not just a symbol to be remembered, and worshipped on every December 25, but also the human embodiment of God who gave up His throne in glory. He became a human being so He could experience what each of us must endure and then point us back to a perfect relationship with Him.

This Christmas, take time to learn more, and accept in more depth who Jesus is. If the real meaning of Christmas has been buried in gross commercialism, then it is time for you to:

1. STOP;
2. Find some quiet time with God;
3. Pray a meaningful, contrite prayer of forgiveness;
4. Ask God to again lead your life in ALL aspects.
5. If you have never accepted Jesus as your savior, DO IT NOW!!
6. Become involved: studying, worshipping, praising, loving and serving here on earth for that is “Your Purpose for Living.”

“Get To Know The New Born—Merry Christmas!!!”

Pastor Gerald L. Durley