

Title: The Birth of the King

Text: John 1:1, 14

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Place: DCOG

We have all seen Christmas pageants with the little boy who comes in as Joseph dressed in a bathrobe and sneakers. He anxiously taps on the door to the inn and the innkeeper, dressed in a toe-sack robe answers, indicating that there is no room in the crowded inn. The innkeeper looks at Mary, shrugs and Joseph and Mary are turned away.

But what if...what if there is an interruption in the Story? What if a voice calls out to the innkeeper asking him if he knows who he is turning away? Does the innkeeper really want to be known through history as the one who turned Jesus away?

We can't change the scene can we? If we did, so much else would change, too. No angels singing in the sky. No announcement to shepherds to look for the Savior in a manger. Would we still have the deep voice of the pastor reading, "And the Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us"?

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I. The Word was made flesh and made his dwelling among us.

* Have you ever grown up next to somebody who would become famous?

Debbie went to High School in Texas with Patrick Swayze. (Still she chose me).

Deb's brother, Harry, went through High School with Kenny Rogers.

I went to school with Donny Koehler....no one ever asks to see my yearbook.

Imagine what it would be like to play with God? Imagine being a neighbor to the being that created the universe. What would it really be like to experience the almighty in the form of a human being. – That was Jesus.

A. The Word, who was God, was made flesh.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

* We are talking about Jesus here.

B. “Word” is from the Greek *logos* from which we get logic, or reason.

C. Heraklitus, a philosopher who lived in Ephesus and who observed that you never step in the same river twice, said that *logos* is omnipotent wisdom that steers everything.

* Fiction is often built around this very observation. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (commonly shortened to *Alice in Wonderland*) is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It tells of a girl named Alice who falls down a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar creatures. The tale plays with logic. Its structure, characters and imagery have been enormously influential in both popular culture and literature.

Alice wanders through a world that appears dysfunctional that still has purpose. Can the same be said for our world? Is there an ultimate *logos*? Is there a possibility?

D. Plato offered the possibility that a Word (*logos*) may one day usher forth from God.

II. The Word who is God is revealed in Jesus Christ.

- A. “In the beginning...” is an echo or return to Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created...”
- B. God created by words, by speech, “Let there be...and there was...”

* The voice is the voice of Jesus who appears in the Old Testament—to Jacob at the brook Jabbok; to Joseph as the Commander of God’s Armies; to Abraham as Melchizedek; as the 4th person in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

- C. This Jesus is the one who was made flesh, with teeth and toenails and two kidneys, not part man and part God, but fully human and fully God.

III. Jesus was born as an ordinary person to ordinary people.

Luke 1:34-35

*"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*

- A. Jesus was born of a young virgin girl, needing no help from us to be born.
- B. His earthly father, Joe, was an ordinary carpenter.
- C. Jesus’ birth was truly humble.

Application: Jesus is humble and simple enough to know what you’ve been through this week; humble enough to know what keeps you awake at night; humble enough to hear a Bulgarian

immigrant or a squatter in Honduras; humble enough to know a cold night and a hungry belly. The Word became flesh. He came to us and for us.

IV. The Word, Jesus, was turned away by many.

John 1:10-11

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

- A. The innkeeper was not the only one to turn Jesus away. We can only imagine what went through his head as he rejected Jesus, claiming it was too crowded to have a pregnant woman give birth in his inn.
- B. The world is always “too crowded” to receive Jesus—crowded with deadlines and headlines, phone lines and long lines, full itineraries, full schedules, jam-packed lives.
- C. Jesus comes not to complicate our already complicated lives, but to simplify our lives, even to give us life.

Conclusion: It is never too late to invite Jesus into our lives. We don't have to clean up our act first. He comes in even at the 2 minute warning of life. It was not too late for Abraham at 100 years of age, not too late for Moses after 40 years in the desert, not too late for Jonah running from God, not too late for Saul of Tarsus who persecuted Christians and who met Christ on the Damascus road. Not too late for Peter who denied Jesus or for Thomas who doubted Jesus.

It's not too crowded and it's not too late to meet Jesus—the Word, our King and Savior. He comes to common folk—a

common carpenter, a common virgin girl, common shepherds, and common people in Decatur, Indiana. When God comes, he comes to and through common things.

He wants to come to us today. He wants to help us become special. Will you let Him?

You can pray, "Come in, Jesus. Please come in and make my heart your home."