

Sermon Series: The Christian Reason for the Season

Sermon Title: The Gift That Keeps On Giving From God The Son

Sermon Text: Luke 1:26-33

Sermon Purpose: To challenge the hearer to not lose the Christian meaning of Christmas.

Sermon Proposition: There are 5 miraculous grace based reasons for Christian's to celebrate the Season.

Introduction: According to a legend, Satan and his demons were having a Christmas party. As the demonic guests were departing, one grinned and said to Satan, "Merry Christmas, your majesty." At that, Satan replied with a growl, "Yes, keep it merry. If they ever get serious about it, we'll all be in trouble." Well, get serious about it. It is the birth of the Baby. It is the coming of God. It is the intervention of God's presence among men. [Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations and Quotes. Charles R. Swindoll, p. 82]

Hark the Herald Angels

I. The Gift's willingness to submit to the Father's plan should be celebrated. V.26

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy the angel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth. Gabriel's name means "strong man of God." Nazareth is a small village in Galilee, a region north of Judea and Samaria.

II. The Gift's willingness to submit to human parents should be celebrated. V.27

Mary was an ordinary virgin (GK parthenos) echoes the prophecy of the virgin birth in Isaiah 7:14 (**Matthew 1:18-25**). The importance of the virgin birth cannot be overstated. A correct view of the importance of the virgin birth or incarnation hinges on the truth that Jesus was virgin-born, testifying to His deity and sinlessness.

Mary was betrothed to a Jewish man by the name of Joseph, who was in the line of David. The house of David refers to the tribe of Judah, from which Old Testament prophecies said the Messiah would come.

Genesis 49:9-10 Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him? **10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.

2 Samuel 7:11-13 "since the time that I commanded judges *to be* over My people Israel, and have caused you to rest from all your enemies. Also the LORD tells you that He will make you a house. **12** "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

III. The Gift's willingness to submit to ordinary people should be celebrated. Vv.28-30

Mary was highly favored by the Sovereign choice of God the Father. He set His undeserved favor/grace upon her, not because she had earned that favor, this term favor means "full of grace" a term eventually used of all believer's in

Ephesians 1:16 do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

These were two ordinary people, nothing supernatural about either of them. Mary was understandably troubled, confused, perplexed by Gabriel's visit and announcement. Mary couldn't conceive how or why she should receive such an honor. Salvation, service, sanctification should amaze all of us this way.

IV. The Gift's miraculous entrance into time should be celebrated. V.31

The miracle that would cause Mary to conceive and give birth to a Son, would be a greater miracle than the one that caused Elizabeth to conceive in her old age (vv.13, 18). Because unlike Elizabeth, Mary was still a virgin and unmarried (v.34). The Holy Spirit overshadows her in the conception (vv.34-38). The conception of Jesus Christ is a creative act of the Holy Spirit, not the result of the sort of divine-human collaboration found in pagan, Greek, and Roman mythology.

The name is already determined, the name Jesus is equivalent to the Hebrew Yehoshua (Joshua), which means "the Lord is our salvation."

V. The Gift's unique destiny should be celebrated. V.32-33

"He will be great." This same promise was made of John the Baptist. However the title [Son of the Highest or Most High] is what set Jesus apart. John the Baptist is called "the prophet of the Highest." (v.76-77)

"Son of the Highest" means Jesus was the Son of God Himself (v.35) because God made the life in Mary's womb without the aid of human methods or a human father. The "Most High God." Helps us to understand that since a son bears his father's qualities, calling Him the "Son of God" signifies equality with God.

Philippians 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Humanly speaking, Jesus lineage can be traced legitimately and legally through the royal family of David.

Luke 3:23-28 Now Jesus Himself began *His ministry* at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) *the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,*

24 *the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Janna, the son of Joseph,*

25 *the son of Mattathiah, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Esli, the son of Naggai,*

26 *the son of Maath, the son of Mattathiah, the son of Semei, the son of Joseph, the son of Judah,*

27 *the son of Joannas, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,*

28 *the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmodam, the son of Er,*

29 *the son of Jose, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,*

30 *the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonan, the son of Eliakim,*

31 *the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David,*

32 *the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,*

33 *the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,*

34 *the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,*

35 *the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah,*

36 *the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,*

37 *the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan,*

38 *the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

This makes Jesus a rightful heir and the only heir to David's throne according to God's eternal covenant.

Finally, Jesus "will reign over the house of Jacob forever." This emphasizes both the Jewish character of the millennial kingdom and the eternal permanence of Christ's rule over all.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Daniel 2:44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

Psalms 89:36-37 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; **37** It shall be established forever like the moon, Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky." Selah