

## The Incarnation Matters: God's Provision for Sinful Humanity Matthew 1:18-25

### INTRODUCTION

The miracle of Christmas is the miracle of Christ's \_\_\_\_\_.

The Incarnation is one of the foundational truths of the Christian faith. Why?

The doctrine of the Incarnation is the good news that, at an \_\_\_\_\_ moment in human history, God became \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ among us (Gal. 4:4; John 1:1, 14).

The doctrine of the Incarnation **does not** teach that God merely took up residence in the man Jesus who was subsequently elevated to divine status. Neither does it assert that God only appeared to be a human. **Instead**, the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully man. **His divine nature did not alter His human nature, and His humanity did not diminish His divinity.** What a miracle!

It is amazing to see how we forget that Christmas is indeed about Jesus Christ. Christmas is not merely the birth of a baby. Christmas is the celebration of God's entry into our world. **Our culture shifts the true focus of Christmas to the infancy of Jesus, whereas the true focus of Christmas is actually on the deity of Jesus.** Our culture will sing about the birth of a baby but will reject Jesus as God come in the flesh. Our culture will sing about His nativity but will reject His authority. Our culture will adore Him as an infant but will not bow down to Him as Lord. Our culture will embrace the accompanying events of Christmas—the manger, shepherds, wise men, angels, Joseph and Mary—but will not believe the advent of God in human flesh.

You see, the true Christmas story commences with a cradle, but it continues to a cross, and it concludes with a crown. Just as we do not believe you should leave Jesus on a cross, because He is a risen Lord; we also believe you should not leave Jesus in a cradle, because He's no longer a baby lying in a manger; He is a King on the throne of this universe.

Last Sunday, we stated that **the Incarnation matters because God keeps His promises.**

**For this morning, please keep in mind that the Incarnation matters because it's God's \_\_\_\_\_ for sinful humanity.**

With this in mind, please turn in your Bible to **Matthew 1:18-25**. For this morning we're going to focus on a single verse...**verse 21**.

You see the Christmas story is..

### **I. The story of humanity's \_\_\_\_\_**

When the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds in the field, he said, *"I bring you good news of great joy."* (Lk 2:10) Now why is Christmas good news? Because it is remedy for the bad news.

**What is the bad news?**

#### **A. Humanity is \_\_\_\_\_**

What does this mean? This means that sin has permeated our being. We're sinful to the core. **John Piper** states: *"When we speak of man's depravity we mean man's natural condition apart from any grace exerted by God to restrain or transform man."* (<http://www.monergism.com/thethreshold/articles/piper/depravity.html>) The doctrine of total depravity is an acknowledgement that the Bible teaches that as a result of the fall of man (**Gen 3:6**) every part of man—his mind, will, emotions and flesh—have been corrupted by sin. In other words, sin affects all areas of our being including who we are and what we do.

What are the characteristics [properties, nature of] of this which has caused Jesus Christ to be born as a Savior?

a) Sin is \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to understand that its nature is to defile. Sin pollutes. *"It is to precious metal what rust is. It is what scars are to a lovely face, what stain is to silk cloth, what smog is to a blue sky. It makes the soul red with guilt and black with evil."* Thomas Goodwin, the Puritan, wrote, *Sin is called poison; sinners, serpents. Sin is called vomit; sinners, dogs. Sin is called the stench of graves; sinners, rotten sepulchers. Sin is called mire; sinners, pigs."* Thomas Watson, the great Puritan writer said, *"Sin has turned beauty into deformity and the wicked takes more care to have his sin covered than cured."* Every broken marriage, every disrupted home, every shattered friendship, every argument, every disagreement, every evil thought, evil word, evil deed, every good deed undone, good thought not thought, good word unsaid can be attributed to sin.

b) Sin is \_\_\_\_\_

Bunyan said, *"Sin is the dare of God's justice. Sin is the rape of God's mercy. It is the jeer of His patience, the slight of His power and the contempt of His love."*

*This all points to the depravity of man; but there's more...not only is man spiritually depraved...*

B. Humanity is \_\_\_\_\_

C. Humanity is \_\_\_\_\_

*The Christmas story is also...*

II. The story of God's \_\_\_\_\_

### III. The story of our \_\_\_\_\_

You see, Christmas tells us *three things* about this thing called salvation:

A. It is \_\_\_\_\_

**The meaning of Christmas is that God determined to send His Son into the world, the brightness of His glory, the express image of His person, partaker of the divine perfection to die for us.** That's Christmas. And no matter what you may think and what sentiments you may have and what warm feelings you might have about Christmas, unless you understand the ugliness of your own sin and embrace Jesus Christ who alone by His death and resurrection can save you from that sin, you don't have any connection with Christmas.

B. It is \_\_\_\_\_ but not \_\_\_\_\_

C. It Is \_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUSION

I suppose one the most familiar nursery rhyme is the poem, "**Mary had a Little Lamb.**" Please allow me to share a version of this beloved poem:

#### **Poem - Mary's Little Lamb**

Mary had a little Lamb, His name was Jesus Christ.  
Though some may not believe it, He came to give us life.  
This little Lamb was special, For He was sent from God.  
And so to earth He came one day, On His mission He did trod.  
He grew to be a fine young man, Mary's little Lamb.  
He healed the sick and raised the dead, and taught as no one can.  
Then, in the prime of manhood, His mission He did not alter,  
He set His heart toward an old rugged cross, and never ever faltered.  
He gave Himself a sacrifice for the sin of mortal man.  
His death and blood atone for sin like no other lamb's can.  
Yes, Mary had a little Lamb, Who did us all a great favor.  
He gave His life a sacrifice, So He could be our Savior.