

Before Love Came To Town

I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Larry: Xmas Times. Xmas Gift Cards. [no slide, TY for 500 gifts].
ChristianAudio. [no slide, Church Office Holiday Hours]. Set up Cal/Ty video.
- B. Slide5,6 My son-in-law & daughter (Tyler/Mical Andrews) back from the mission field.
 1. **Where** were you serving and **what** was your task?
 2. **What** did you see **God do**?
 3. Is there a **person** who **inspired you**?
 4. **What's next** for you?

II. Slide7 **Intro:** Before Love Came To Town

- A. Next week will be looking at *When Love Came to Town*.
So this week I thought we would look at *Before Love Came To Town*.

III. Slide8 **JESUS' FOSTER FATHER'S GENEALOGY (MT.1:1)**

- A. Slide9 **Luke** gives His genealogy from **Mary** (the **genetic** line) [from Mary back to Adam]
- B. **Matthew** gives His genealogy from **Joseph**. He starts by saying, *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham. Meaning, Jesus is the rightful heir to the throne of Israel. Both...*
 1. **Racially** - through **Abraham** (Ab. seed would be blest)
 2. **Royally** - through **David** (couldn't build God a house, **but** God would build a house thru him. 2 Sam.7:13)
 - a) Slide10a-e God's 1st announcement of the coming of the Savior was given in **Gen. 3:15**, informing us the Savior would be a **human being** *not an angel (her seed)*.
 - b) **Next** in **Gen.12:3** He tells us He would be **Jewish** (i.e. thru Ab.).
 - c) **Then** in **Gen.49:10** He tells us He would come through the tribe of **Judah**.
 - d) **Then** we learn here that Messiah would come through **David's** family. [No wonder David gets elated (in 2 Sam.7:18-29) when he learned that Messiah would be known as *the Son of David*. Mt.1:1]
 - e) **Then Micah** would add (5:2) His birth place would be in **Bethlehem**, so He'd be able to fill out His **Passport** when He came.

3. Since Herod destroyed all genealogies in A.D.70, there is no **Jew** today who can claim w/certainty & authority to be *a son of Abraham & a son of David* except **Jesus**. Here, is the only preserved genealogy in the world today.

IV. Slide11 **JESUS' HEAVENLY GENEALOGY**

- A. So our text this morning will be **John 1:1-3,14**. And we'll read **Jesus' genealogy** from a *very tall Family Tree*...reaching all the way into the **heavens**. *Read Text*.
1. **Slide12** 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made...14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - a) *Johns gospel starts out in heaven, w/a glimpse of the creator before He became Christ the man. But it doesn't stay there; it brings heaven to earth. Because only in Christ's coming could we be forgiven of our sins & brought near to Almighty God¹*
- B. 1st, why did John write a **4th** gospel? (last written)
- C. **4 Gospels** (4 diff camera angles): **Mt** (Sov/King/Lord) **Mrk** (Servant) **Lk** (Son of man) **Jn** (Son of God) [+ 90% of John new info. 6 new miracles].
1. **Slide13** **Mt** (to **Jews**. Portrays Jesus as *The Messiah*)
 2. **Mrk** (**Romans**. Portrays Jesus as *The Servant*)
 3. **Lk** (to **Greeks**. Portrays Jesus as *The Man*)
 4. **Jn** (**whole world**. Portrays Jesus as *Divine*)
 - a) **Mt** (what Jesus **said**) **Mrk** (**did**) **Lk** (**felt**) **Jn** (who He **was**).
- D. **Slide14,15** **Jn.20:31**(Key verse) *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*
1. **Deity** - **Jesus is the Christ** (to make His deity crystal clear).
 - a) **Coin**: 2 sides of a **coin** are both valid, so **Jesus** has **2 natures**, *both valid*.hypostatic union

¹ Charles Swindoll

2. **Belief** - that **believing** you might have **life** in His name (forgiveness & brought near to God) [**Believe** is key word; 98 x's]

V. Slide16 **IN THE BEGINNING** (John 1:1-3,14)

- A. How would you explain to a friend that Jesus was **not** the product of conception *between God and Mary*? What do these verses tell us about **Christmas**? Why did Jesus take on human flesh?
- B. Slide17a The Word existed as far back as you can go...*in the beginning*. (1)
- C. Slide17b Before the Word became flesh & dwelt among us...The Word was *with* God, and he *was* God. (1) He was in the beginning with God. (2)
- D. Slide17c He's introduces Jesus as *The Word*(logos) He is one w/the very being & mind of God
1. He is the **expression & intelligence & will & power** of God.
 2. The fact that He is *the Word* of God shows us that He wants to **communicate** with people.
 - a) Slide17d A **word** is composed of **letters**, & **Christ** is the *alpha* & *omega* (& includes every letter in-between) who spells out *God's love to us*.
 - b) S.D.Gordon noted, *Jesus is God spelling Himself out in language that men can understand*.
 3. God had been revealed **in part** through nature & history, **but now** is known **in full**...through His Son.
- E. Slide18 All things were made through him (3)
1. *Jehovah's Witnesses* think **Jesus** was God's *1st creation*, the first thing *made*.
 2. The last line of vs.3 **denies that claim**.
 3. The Son *made* everything in the category of *made*. **Therefore**, he could not himself be *made*.
 - a) You may not know this but...at the bottom of the earth is a **signature** that says, *Made by Jesus Christ*. Slide19 [*Dan & I*]

b) **Creation** is the universal proof of the reality of God. It clearly testifies that an awesome Creator must exist.

F. Slide20a (14) Begotten or *Son* is used 60x in John Gospel.

1. Slide20b Christians know that God + Mary = Son of God *is blasphemy*. Why?
2. The **Son** is the **Word** & so He is **God**. So, the son of God is not the product of Conception with Mary. Because He existed *way before* Mary was even born.

G. Slide20c So, The Word became Flesh - *This God became flesh*.

1. *"Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing"*. [O Come, All Ye Faithful]
2. This means He was **not flesh** before this moment, **and** that He entered into the world *in the flesh* as a man at one point in history.
3. What was the point of *putting on flesh*? He became human **because** we are human. He became human **so** that...*He could die*.

a) Jn.6:51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world.*

4. **Now Jesus will always be a man**. He raised *his body* when he ascended Jn2:19-21

a) Paul says the same thing about **Jesus** and about **us** in Phil.3:20,21. **We will have a (new and glorious) body** forever.

H. Slide20d The Word became flesh & **tabernacled** among us - *Jesus' flesh, the new localization of God's presence on earth; the replacement of the old tabernacle*.

1. Rev. 21:3 *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

2. **Tabernacle/dwell** - *to pitch one's tent* [tabernacle & dwell same word]

a) Slide20e Incarnation: *deity funneled itself into humanity*.

(1) Like taking the finest of wines & pouring it into an *ordinary earthen vessel*

(2) For a few years, **the worlds parched lips** tasted of the kingdom of God...**but** was that it??? *Actually no*.

(a) **And He Dwelt Among Us** means he *drew near to us*. It's about **proximity**.

- I. Slide21 *Christmas is about...God becoming man, so that He might die, so that He might be near His people.
- J. Mary Had The Little Lamb
- K. Mary had the little Lamb, who lived before His birth;
Self-existent Son of God, from Heaven He came to Earth.
- L. Mary had the little Lamb; see Him in yonder stall -
Virgin-born Son of God, to save man from the Fall.
- M. Mary had the little Lamb, obedient Son of God;
Everywhere the Father led, His feet were sure to trod.
- N. Mary had the little Lamb, crucified on the tree,
The rejected Son of God, He died to set men free.
- O. Mary had the little Lamb - men placed Him in the grave,
Thinking they were done with Him; to death He was no slave.
- P. Mary had the little Lamb, ascended now is He;
All work on Earth is ended, our Advocate to be.
- Q. Mary had the little Lamb - mystery to behold.
From the Lamb of Calvary, a Lion will unfold.
- R. When the Day Star comes again, of this be very sure:
It won't be Lamb-like silence, but with the Lion's roar.

Marv & Marbeth Rosenthal. *Copies of this poem may be used w/o written permission from the authors.*