

When He came into the world...

I. Slide#1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide#2 Xmas Eve Services 7 & 9pm - all family service. *Join us as we celebrate the Saviors birth*
- B. No Children @ Risk today.
- C. Slide#3 New Years Eve - Join Kel & I for *an hour of prayer* 7-8pm, Wed night, Dec.31st.
 1. My New Years resolution... **To avoid stupid!**

II. Slide#4 **Intro:**

- A. Slide#5 When I 1st started dating Kelly I got a *senior picture* from her.
 1. I could look at the picture of Kelly...read what she wrote on the back...but I couldn't laugh with it, nor have conversation w/it.
 2. It was an **accurate** representation of her, but a far cry from her.
 3. After being together for now for 36 yrs...Imagine me **going back** to the picture???
"I love you oh photograph?"
 4. How absurd for anyone having the **the very image** to go back to **the shadow**.
- B. Slide#6 Title: *When He came into the world*
- C. Outline: His Mastery, His Mission, His Motto, & His Manifesto.

III. Slide#7 **HIS MASTERY (1-4)**

- A. Here the writer wraps up this **contrast** between **the earthly lambs**/daily sacrifices and **The Heavenly Lamb/Jesus**.
 1. **Earthly lambs** - Frequency (again & again) & Failure (never to *take sin away*).
 - a) The sacrifices under the Old Cov brought a **reminder** of sin, not a **remission** of sin.
 2. **Heavenly Lamb** - Frequency (just once for all) & Fulfillment (for by one offering He has **perfected forever** those who are being sanctified).
- B. So, Jesus had Mastery/Superiority over this old system/old cov/shadow/copy.

IV. Slide#8 **HIS MISSION (5,6)**

- A. Would you like to be apart this morning of *a brief conversation* that took place, between Jesus & the Father, when He had elected to *come into our world* as a man?
- B. Slide#9 (5-7) This quote came from Ps.40:6-8 from the *Septuagint* (270bc, 70, Alexandria, Egypt).
 1. There was more Greek speakers than Hebrew speakers in the ancient world. This is a big deal as God stamps His ok on "*translations*" into other languages. (Quran/Arabic)

2. So here **David**, had spoken this 1000 years earlier, **but Christ** in heaven took it & **reapplied it** so as to describe His own inner **thinking & dialogue** w/the Father when He came into our world.
- C. **Slide#10** In one fell swoop the Psalmist hits the whole sacrificial system using 4 diff Gk words:
1. **Sacrifice** (thu**S**la/θυσία) – This primarily denotes **the act of offering**, **then that which is offered**. Peace offering, where offerer & priest sat down *in the presence of God* to enjoy a communion-meal based upon sacrifice.
 2. **Offering** (prosphor**A**/προσφορά) – used for a **non-bloody sacrifice**, **the meal offering**.
 3. **Burnt offerings** (olo**KOW**toma/όλοκαύτωμα) – this depicted **the total or whole offering**, the burnt offering was the whole animal.
 4. **Sacrifices** (peri/περί) – **sin offering**. This sacrifice dealt with all the dreadfulness of the human condition. **With the principle of sin & the practice of sin**.
 - a) **Jesus fulfilled all 4 types of sacrifices**: He is our **peace-offering**; His very **life** was a sacrifice (non-bloody); He is our **burnt-offering** (total/whole); & He became our **sin-offering** for He knew how dreadful our human condition was.
- D. **Slide#11** God takes no delight in the **routine performance** of the **ritual sacrifice**.
1. Undoubtedly, He feels the same way about **routine worship services today**.
 - a) **Sacrifice w/o sincerity & ritual w/o reality** = being alive **w/o true Vitality**.
 2. Though God **required & authorized animal sacrifices** (to instruct His people about sinfulness, *i.e.* that **sin leads to death, which causes a need for atonement**), He **didn't delight** in **innocent** animals dying, **nor** their **death-throes**. He had **no pleasure** in that/them. He only finds pleasure in those who offered a sacrifice with a **contrite** (crushed) & **obedient** (compliant/willing heart).
 - a) **So**, God had **no pleasure** in animal sacrifices, **yet** when it came to His Son's sacrifice Isaiah says, **it pleased the LORD to bruise Him**.
- E. **Slide#12a** **But a body you have prepared for me** [*My ears you have opened* Ps.40:6]
1. **Ex.21:1-6** – Slave to master, ears pierced w/an awl.
 2. **Opened** = “*dug*” or “*opened up*”. **Context seems to be better as obedience**.
 - a) **Slide#12b** Jesus was filled with one thought...**God prepared Me this body**. I have it for His **disposal**, for His **service**, for His **glory**. The body came from God, it belongs to Him, it has no object of existence **but** to please Him. The one value my body has is, that I can give it, a sacrifice to God. Andrew Murray, The Holiest of All, pg.332
 - b) **Aren't we called to the same? Present your bodies a living sacrifice unto God**.
 3. **But** how many people, even Christians, have **plugged** there ears? **Or**, how many hear w/their ears only, & not w/their hearts?

4. Is there something you know God wants **you** to do, **but** have been **unwilling**?
[Perhaps a **kindness** to perform? A **confession** to make? A **gift** to give?
A **commitment** to fulfill? A **task** to perform?]

a) If you know what it is, tell Him this morning, *"I have come to do your will, O God!"*

F. **Slide#13** A **body** He has prepared for you - we are *fearfully and wonderfully made* and each of us has the qualities of **body** and **soul** that best correspond with God's purpose for **our** lives.

1. **Slide#14** When she was *a little girl*, **Amy Carmichael** earnestly prayed that God would turn her **brown** eyes into **blue** ones, for she longed for **blue eyes**. **Later in life**, she came to understand why **brown** eyes were important for her. In rescuing girls from Hindu slavery, Amy often had to cover herself with a scarf that revealed only her eyes. **Blue eyes** would have betrayed her identity in **brown-eyed** India.

a) So learn to thank God for the **body** and **personality** He has given you, for no one else is exactly like you - and for God's good reasons.

b) *Embrace this morning...This **body** you have prepared for me & me only. This **personality** you have prepared for me & me only. These **gifts** you have prepared for me & me only. This **family** you have placed me in was for me. These **situations/trials** you have placed me in are for me & me only.*

G. **So**, Jesus owned His **Mission** to come to earth in a man-body, an earth-suit.

V. **Slide#15 HIS MOTTO (7-10)**

A. (7) **To do your will** – What is the right relationship of a person to God?

1. It is obviously not something of **mere ceremony** **but** is rather *the expression of a fully surrendered heart*...**Obedience** takes precedence over sacrifice.

a) 1 Sam.15:22 **Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.**

b) Micah 6:7,8 **Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?**

B. **Christmas** is about *doing God's will*, honoring by **faith** & being **courageous**.

1. We think of the faith of **Mary**, the faith of **Joseph**, & the faith of **the wise men**.

2. **Slide#16a** **Mary** in hearing from the angel in Lk.1:38 said, **Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to Your word.**

a) Probably the most amazing *statement of faith* ever to have fallen from human lips.

(1) She reveals what her faith stands upon...*His trustworthy Word*.

b) She was open & ready for the Lord to **Intrude** into her life.

(1) **Intrude** (without invitation or permission). He was Mary's **Blessed Intruder**.

- c) **Our lesson from Mary:** God must reserve for Himself the right to *break into my life* without question or explanation.
- (1) That shattering **phone call**, that disturbing **letter**...may indeed be the first stage of God's *interruption* in my life.
 - (2) And since God does the **initiating**, He must be **responsible** for the **consequences**.
- d) *Mary Faith* teaches us to tear down all *No Trespassing signs* in our lives, & replace them with *Welcome signs*.
3. **Slide#16b Joseph** - story in a **poem** I wrote a dozen yrs ago:
- a) To be married in a year; To Mary my dear.
So young, so pretty; Then off to the city?
3 months showing; Her face glowing?
My face sad; For what we could have had.
Should I break it w/a hush; Just don't rush.
I thought & I thought; Then a dream I caught.
Puzzling fears; Angel comes near.
Redemption plan revealed; New plan is **sealed**.
I took her to wife; For the rest of my life.
A boy in my home; I'll raise like my own!
 - b) His **faith** went we're **logic** failed. Joseph took Mary to be his wife, even though that meant living with a host of **unanswered questions**. Joseph is an amazing example of faith/obedience. He teaches us that just because we have questions that we **can't** answer, questions that God **won't** answer...that's *no excuse* for not doing the will of God.
 - (1) **Joseph's reaction in the midst of *not understanding everything* around him...**was to run **to** God **not** run **from** Him.
 - (2) **He grabbed God's will...as fuzzy at best.** And yet he believed, he ran towards God. **Because of this faith Mary's husband endured stares from a judgmental public.** He bore the stigma of marrying an unwed mother. **He even had to flee his own country, as a refugee.**
 - (3) Joseph's faith was *tough & brave & selfless & sacrificial*.
4. **Slide#16c Wise men** - their faith took them on a long, difficult, tiring, arduous journey. But they kept on.
- a) Their faith set out to **worship** Him (Mt.2:2) & **succeeded** in doing so (2:11).
 - (1) "What can we **give God**, that gives Him greater satisfaction than that a thousand times a day all His creatures should thus pause to **withdraw** and **worship** Him from the heart."
 - b) **Our lesson from the Wise Men: Worship** is *seeing* what God is **worth** and *giving* him what He's **worth**.
 - (1) **Worship does not satisfy** our hunger for God; **it whets** our appetite.

c) *You catch your baby gazing intently at you. You stare back, you smile. The baby smiles back...all is well. The simple pleasure of looking at the one you love. This is what we enjoy each time we **worship God** and **bask** in His presence, He smiles...all is well!*

5. The Christmas story is all about **faith & courage & obedience** to the Father.

a) ***Success is never final, failure is never fatal, its courage that counts.***

C. Christmas is a feast day for *the stout of heart*.

1. *Slide#17a* This Christmas, besides, egg nog & presents, trees & wreathes, decorations & lights...we need **Christmas style Courage**...a **courage** that rises up in the midst of the *brokenness* around us.

2. *Slide#17b* This Christmas we need **Feliz Navidad Faith**...a **faith** that does the will of God...**Regardless!**

3. This Christmas we need to be **strong & courageous**, to **proclaim & live out** our faith, and to make **real sacrifices** in obedience to Him.

a) An all-wise God will one day mend all that's **broken** and restore all that's **fallen**.
But for the moment He allows the **wreckage** to **remain**, and expects us to have the **courage** to **obey His Word** and **answer His call**.

D. *Slide#18* On Dec.24,1989 a Romanian church was celebrating **Christmas Eve** by candlelight. During the service **Communist soldiers** came to **arrest the pastor**. As the soldiers approached the church, members started lining up outside. First 10 people deep, then 20, then 30. Church members encircled the building. Soldiers couldn't break through the human shield. It was a symbolic moment - one of the **triggers** that brought down the **Romanian dictatorship**. And it was inspired, by the **courage** we find in the **Christmas story**.

E. So, Jesus lived out His Motto to **come** and **do** the Fathers will.

VI. *Slide#19* **HIS MANIFESTO (11-18)** [manifesto = *public declaration of your policy & aim*]

A. (12) Not sitting on edge of seat wringing His hands, **but** relaxed... knowing **the end**...knowing **our end**.

B. (14) Catch the impact of this verse.

1. We have our **standing/position** in **vs.10** (we **have been** sanctified/set apart) and our **state/condition** in **vs.14** (we **are being** sanctified).

2. The sacrifice is so efficacious(effective) **that** it **guarantees** the **final perfection** of all those who were **being** made holy.

a) This involves not only the **regeneration** of the **spirit** & the **salvation** of the **soul**, **but also** the **resurrection** of the **body** of each true believer.

b) We may not **understand** all of this **but** we can **revel in its reality**. Ray Stedman

C. Ever notice that some **leaves** are able to remain on the tree even through the harsh winds of winter?

1. Slide#20a **Springtime** hits & you can watch leaves continued to **fall**, but it's not because of the wind but because **the sap** has begun to flow. It starts to push the deadness out from within...**ALL** the deadness of the previous year.
2. When God writes **His will** on **our hearts**, **new life within** purges the **deadness** from our lives. **A renewed hearts** pump fresh blood through us. The life of Christ in us, Slide#20b same life that said, "*Here I am...I have come to do your will, O God*" - Animates us!
 - a) It's the work of the Holy Spirit in your life, that pushes out the deadness, not you in the flesh no matter how hard you try. *For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.* It's **He - He - He** [not Ho, Ho, Ho!]
- D. Slide#21a (17) **Remember no more** – Clara Barton, organizer of the Amer. Red Cross was known not to harbor resentment. She was asked by a friend regarding an incident that had happened earlier to Clara, "Don't you remember the wrong that was done you?" Clara answered calmly, Slide#21b "*No, I distinctly remember forgetting that.*"
 1. Can you visualize your **every past sin** and **failure totally forgotten** by God?
 2. How does this affect your feelings about **God?** About **yourselves?** About your **future?** About your **past?**
- E. **So**, Jesus declared His Manifesto as His *one offering would equal...believers forgiven, sins remembered no more, & saints perfected forever.*
- F. **Lord, we celebrate...***The King is born to us today. The King is born our souls to save.*