

“Don’t Forget the Baby!”

Luke 2:1-7

Intro. – Christmas shopping was in full swing when Doug Hutchinson saw a woman absent-mindedly leave a bundle on top of her car and begin to drive away. When Doug realized what was happening, he set down his two grocery bags and ran after her. She was just turning out of the shopping center lot, onto the street when Doug caught up with her and caught in mid-air her bundle. It was her little baby. The mother realizing what she had done screeched the car to a stop and began sobbing hysterically.

A good illustration of absent-mindedness wouldn’t you say? Yet, how often do we find ourselves so caught up in a matter that something far more important gets neglected? How true this is, particularly in the matter of our relationship to Christ. How about it? We are now in that time of the year when the birth of Christ is celebrated, making for an excellent opportunity to enhance this relationship. Yet, sadly enough, more times than not rather than enhancing our relationship to Christ it becomes a barrier. Yes, I fear we too have been guilty of forgetting the baby!

Purpose: to look at that which needs our attention the most this time of year

Don’t forget the baby is the whole thrust of this message. In other words, do not forget Jesus Christ: 1) The Time He Was Born; 2) The Place He Was Born; 3) The Manner in Which He Was Born.

I REMEMBER THE TIME HE WAS BORN

- tradition makes December 25th the birthday of Christ – whereas the Bible gives no data...
- what we need to focus on is that His coming was in accordance to *the schedule* (Galatians 4:4)
- why was the time right for Christ’s coming?

A. It Matched With the Father’s Plan

1. Ephesians 1:3ff – speaks of the Father’s plan:
 - a. before earth’s foundation God had established how He would provide redemption...
 - b. established through Christ and His coming to live, die and rise again!
2. All of the Old Testament leads up to this even/time...
3. Christ’s entering human history marked the time and event of God’s plan to provide redemption, a new covenant with man.
 - a. this is exactly what the Old Testament fathers anticipated
 - b. this is exactly what the Old Testament prophets prophesied

All of which was in accordance with God’s plan!

B. It Matched With the Times

- Galatians 4:4 *“But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.”*
- 1. Greek language (one of man’s most exacting language...) – spread the Gospel throughout world!
- 2. Roman roads and travel made for a time in history unlike any other time...
- 3. The point it: the times were right for His coming!
- 4. Illus. – For Jonathan Bowles of Ludlow, England, it just wasn’t his time. When his first parachute failed to open, he pulled his auxiliary chute. It popped out and wrapped itself around his body. Bowles fell 45 seconds, crashing through a skylight in an airport hangar. The parachute cords snagged a broken window frame from the skylight and jerked him to a halt twenty-four inches from the concrete floor. He was totally unharmed.
 - no it wasn’t Bowles’ time, but when Christ came into this world, the time was right... Don’t forget the Baby – remember the time He was born!

II REMEMBER THE PLACE HE WAS BORN

- the place where our Lord was born is most observable. The Bible clearly says He was born in Bethlehem, a little town 5 miles Southwest of Jerusalem.

A. The City of David

1. 1 Samuel 20:6 speaks of Bethlehem being David's city or where he was born and raised.
2. It was in the fields around this town David tended to the sheep (1 Samuel 17:15)
3. It was here, the family of Jesse had yearly sacrifices... (sort of family reunions from which we might assume all family records were kept).
4. Significant to note: Joseph/Mary were both from David's line – line the OT predicted X's coming
5. Note: time between David and Christ there were no famous people from Bethlehem and from the time of Christ to now there have been no famous people since.

B. The House of Bread

1. How fitting that Christ, who called Himself "*the bread of life*" (John 6:35), should be born in Bethlehem which means "the house of bread."
2. Even the name of His birth place holds deep significance!

C. The Predicted Birth Place

- a. text clearly states it was from here that Joseph and Mary were.
 - b. census taken by Quirinius – taxation purposes led them to their ancestors town.
2. Micah 5:2
 - a. clearly fulfillment of prophesy that Christ would be born in Bethlehem
 - b. a good example of how God alone can take man's purposes which are directly opposite of God's and turn them into serving His purposes!

Thus, don't forget the Baby – remember the place He was born!

III REMEMBER THE MANNER HE WAS BORN

- only one word can accurately describe the manner of Christ's birth = MIRACULOUS
- no one before or since or ever will be born in the manner Christ the Lord was born:

A. Born of a Virgin

1. Though often attacked and rejected, this is an historical fact:
 - a. early historians write in unison to clarify this
 - b. J. Gresham Machen – "There is good ground, we think to hold the reason why the Christian church came to believe in the birth of Christ without a human father. Simply put, He was as a matter of fact so born."
2. In harmony with the unique nature of Christ:
 - Henry Morris – "Not only is the virgin birth true because it is taught in the Bible, but also because it is the only type of birth consistent with the character and mission of Jesus."
3. The Bible says so
 - this is all that is necessary for the believer to know that Jesus was in fact so born!

B. Born With Divine Announcements

1. Joseph... Mary...
2. The shepherds were told by an angel and then a multitude of the heavenly hosts...
3. Wise men were guided by the miraculous star... and then told by God not to tell Herod...

C. Born in the Humblest of Surroundings

1. There was "no room for them in the inn"... laid in a manger (things animals eat out of)...
2. Wrapped in "swaddling clothes" (torn pieces of cloth used as His clothing)...

Here then was the Creator of the universe, the King of kings and Lord of lords?! Indeed! Don't forget the Baby?! How can we when we remember the manner of His birth!

Conclusion: We return now to our opening story. Remember, the mother who forgot her baby in the midst of Christmas shopping. It is a good thing Dough Hutchinson was there. He probably saved that mother from a lifetime of regrets and nightmares.

Our exhortation and summary goes like this. Don't forget the Baby! Don't get so wrapped up in the hustle and bustle of Christmas that you forget the very focal point of why we have and do what we are doing right now. Be reminded of the time, the place, and the manner of Christ's birth so that you don't forget the Baby!