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Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

CHRISTMAS EVE

WHY JESUS?

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Welcome to our Christmas Even Candlelight Service.

1. I would like to take a moment and ask for all of you to think about God...
 - a) What did He look like in your head?
 - b) Did you picture Him as a grandpa type or a dad type?
 - c) Does He have grey hair?
 - (1) Is it long a flowing with a beautifully trimmed grey beard to match?
 - d) What color is His eyes?
 - (1) Bright blue, green, brown?
 - (a) Were they "normal" or piercing and "all knowing"?
 - e) What kind of clothing was He wearing?
 - (1) Was it camelhair like John the Baptist wore?
 - (2) Or was it a long flowing, immaculate white robe?
 - f) What kind of shoes did He have on?
 - g) Did He even have shoes on?
 - (1) If He had shoes on - were they sandals?
 - h) We He sitting or standing?
 - i) Did He have a smile on His face, or did it look like He was angry about something?
 - j) Or was your "picture" more ethereal? Perhaps a being floating around in the cosmos somewhere?
 - k) And lastly - were you able to even picture Him at all?
2. I pray that this little exercise helps us to understand that picturing God, is a lot harder than it seems.
 - a) I am betting that a lot of you pictured a man that looked a lot like the Jesus of the Bible, and a few of you were probably at a loss for any picture at all.

B. Let me ask you this, "If you were going to introduce yourself to an alien planet - that was so far below your level of development, wisdom, and intelligence, and spoke a completely different language - how would you do it?"

1. Let me put it another way: If you wanted to help a planet of cavemen - and they could not understand you - how would you go about it?
 - a) That is where Jesus fits in!

II. BUT WHY JESUS?

A. Do you realize that Jesus was a real man - a real person?

1. He was born Jesus of Nazareth - His name was Jesus and he was from Nazareth.
 - a) He is one of us!

- (1) He came into this world through labor, pain and blood like all the rest of us.
 - (a) As a wonderful little baby boy.
 - (i) As He went through life: He cried, He worked, He experienced joy and sadness, friendship and betrayal, hunger, weariness, distress, and everything that made Him human!
 - (ii) His was born in a barn. He was from a broken home where his “real” dad was physically never there.
 - (iii) He worked as a carpenter with his “stepdad” and the story was that his mother got pregnant by another man before she was married to Joseph - His stepfather.
 - (a) That alone makes you wonder what names he was called as He was growing up?

III. GOD’S ANSWER FOR THIS DYING PLANET CALLED EARTH

- A. **John 1: 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. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. **6** There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. **7** This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. **8** He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. **9** That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. **10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. **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. **15** John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " **16** And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **17** For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

1. God sent His only son in the flesh so we would know what God looks like!

IV. BUT WHY JESUS?

- A. Because Jesus is God in the flesh!
1. Only God/Jesus can turn water into wine. **John 2:1-11**
 2. Only God/Jesus can raise the dead. Luke **7:11-17**, **John 11:1-45**
 3. Only God/Jesus can tell a bunch of “lifetime fishermen” who had been fishing all night and caught nothing - to cast their net on the other side of the boat and fill it up to overflowing with fish. **Luke 5:1-11**, **John 21:4-11**

4. Only God/Jesus can talk to a storm on the sea and tell it to calm down. **Mat 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25**
5. Only God/Jesus can cast out demons.
6. Only God/Jesus can heal the blind, the mute, the lame and the sick.
7. Only God/Jesus can walk on water - and Peter for a few steps.
8. Only God/Jesus can put coins in a fish's mouth to help you pay your taxes.
9. And only God/Jesus can put a severed ear back on a head and heal it with only His hands.

V. CONCLUSION

A. **1 John 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

1. John and the Gospel writers are testifying that what they were writing was absolutely true. That they were “first-person” “eyewitnesses” of Jesus and His miracles! It is not a fairy tale.

One Solitary Life
 He was born in an obscure village
 The child of a peasant woman
 He grew up in another obscure village
 Where he worked in a carpenter shop
 Until he was thirty
 He never wrote a book
 He never held an office
 He never went to college
 He never visited a big city
 He never traveled more than two hundred miles
 From the place where he was born
 He did none of the things
 Usually associated with greatness
 He had no credentials but himself
 He was only thirty three
 His friends ran away
 One of them denied him
 He was turned over to his enemies
 And went through the mockery of a trial
 He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
 While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
 The only property he had on earth
 When he was dead
 He was laid in a borrowed grave

Through the pity of a friend
Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life

<https://www.thechristianworldview.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/One-Solitary-Life.pdf>