

Part 1- The King is Born [SLIDE 1]

John 1:1-3, 14 NIV

You picked the perfect weekend to visit us as we are revisiting the best part of THE STORY. A few years back, we did a series called THE STORY. 36 weeks of studying the major chronological themes of the Bible.

Upper and Lower story. God is in the upper story, us in the lower story.

For the next 6 weeks we are going to hit few of the major themes in the life and ministry of Jesus. **Thus the series is called The Story of Jesus.** And today we are covering His birth.

Merry Christmas! Quite an awkward time to say it. It seems like we missed the season. It isn't Christmas season but more like a season that is ORDINARY.

It is even after the reading week for most of our University students, the winter season is nearing its close, the season is more like heading into the final months of university/college cycle, more like TAX season FOR US ADULTS, in other words, not special but ordinary.

[SLIDE 2] IF YOU FIND YOUR CURRENT LIFE ORDINARY, THEN YOU QUALIFY TO BE IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

No baby shower for Jesus, no fanfare, there was stress, there was need, budget restraints, no reservations, no savings for a great birth.

[SLIDE 3] FROM ORDINARY FOLKS WITH ORDINARY MEANS, GOD BROUGHT AN EXTRAORDINARY HOPE TO A HOPELESS WORLD & THAT HOPE IS JESUS.

Around 100 AD a profoundly wise Jew residing in Ephesus inked papyrus pages with the Gospel of Jesus. It was nearly 7 decades since he touched Christ and he resolved to write an account of the life of his Master. The man's name is John.

Matthew & Luke wrote their Gospels to a Jewish audience and so they focused their beginning on the ancestry of Christ. Both of them started with the genealogies- long list of names we could pronounce.

Mark had a bent of starting with John the Baptist. Doing so allowed him to present the Gospel in a historical form.

But John, being in Ephesus was communicating with a Greek audience. Gentiles who do not know the Jewish nuances.

One sociologist/historian wrote that Christianity started with Jewish roots, in Jewish land with Jewish leaders and then was shared to the Gentiles. Within 30 years more Gentiles became Christians to the ratio of 100,00 is to 1.

[SLIDE 4] WHAT MATTERED TO THE JEWS DIDN'T MATTER TO THE GREEKS.
(and such is the case with us.)

And so John had to think of a way to communicate to outsiders like us- the Greeks.
And God gave him a word to use- WORD.

John 1:1-3, 14

[SLIDE 5] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

[SLIDE 6] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I. **[SLIDE 7] The Word becomes flesh through CHRIST.** John 1:14

A. The Word, who was God, was made flesh. John 1:1 and 14.

B. "Word" is from the Greek logos from which we get logic, reason.

[SLIDE 8] Heraklitus, a philosopher who lived in Ephesus and who observed that you never step in the same river twice, said that logos is omnipotent wisdom that steers everything.

[SLIDE 9] Plato offered the possibility that a Word (logos) may one day usher forth from God.

The Word who is God is revealed in Jesus Christ. John 1:1 and 14

- A. John 1:1 “In the beginning...” is an echo or return to Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created...”
- B. God created by words, by speech, “Let there be...and there was...”

Matthew had a similar point. Matthew and John had 2 different angles going for the same landing point. - Matthew 1:23

[SLIDE 10] “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which in Hebrew means “God with us”).

[SLIDE 11] *‘Immanu’el- with us, God.*

- C. Jesus was born of a young virgin girl, needing no help from us to be born.
- D. His earthly father, Joe, was an ordinary carpenter.
- E. Jesus’ birth was truly humble.

Application: Jesus is humble enough to know what you’ve been through this week; humble enough to know what keeps you awake at night; humble enough to hear an Ethiopian immigrant or a squatter in Brazil; humble enough to know a cold night and a hungry belly. The Word became flesh. He came to us and for us.

[SLIDE 12] Max Lucado:

The artist became oil paint in his own palette
The potter became the clay in his own moulding wheel
God became an embryo, in the belly of a village girl, Mary.
God in Christ, God with us.
He dwelt among us, pitched his tent with us.

Why does it matter? MOMs and DADs on our first day in school.

Human enough enough that we could touch him,
So mighty that He could heal with His touch.
So humble that he can walk behind us
So wise that we should walk behind Him
So simple and obscure He could hide among us for his first 30 years of life,

So wonderful that his 3 years of ministry on earth can change our lives forever.

He was born so poor his first bed was a feed trough, born in a messed up and poor family so He can be with us and so we can have a way to live in heaven's splendor and God's abundant grace later on. God with us.

II. **[SLIDE 13]** The Word becomes flesh through YOU.

[SLIDE 14] Hebrews 13:8,
Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

[SLIDE 15] Acts 1:8 NIV
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When you forgive others...

Encourage others...

Refuse to pass judgment on others...instead show grace

When we serve others...foodbank, nursing home, people at work, in schools, where we eat. Our loved ones.

When we bring God's word to others by supporting the work of the church

When we pray for the church, the pastor, the leaders, the volunteers.

When we love one another...