

Study Guide - "It's A Boy", from 12-3-2017

Warming Up

Discuss what it says about the nature of Jesus that, before the world was made, He knew He was going to be rejected and slain, yet He came anyway. What does this say about His relationship with those who would believe in Him – the cause of His mission?

Takeaway # 1 – "Why A Man? – A Changed Bloodline"

Philippians 2:5-7 reads, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men." There is a TV show on in which the owner of a large company disguises himself or herself and pretends to be a common worker his or her company. Can you imagine this person giving up his or her ownership and management status, and remaining at the lowest position in the company until his or her death? Discuss how much more exaggerated this is for the Ruler of all Creation to be born in a stable and remain in a humble, financially poor position until He dies.

Hebrews 2:14-17 clearly explains why Jesus had to come to earth as a human. ("Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.") Now, imagine if you knew someone who had rejected your love and your instructions, and they were in fatal danger. Saving them would not benefit you at all. In fact, it would cost you horrible suffering and a slow agonizing death. Would you do it? Discuss how great God's love is for His own.

Read Luke 1:26-36, "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, 'Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!' But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.' Then Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I do not know a man?' And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.'"

Pastor Bobby explained that the “blood-type” of Jesus was solely from His Father. Therefore, those born again spiritually from Jesus have the blood-type of God, which has been transfused to replace our fleshly blood of sin and death. How awesomely shocked and grateful should we be to realize that when God looks at us, He no longer sees our sin, but the blood-type of His Only Begotten Son?

Takeaway # 2 – “Guilty or Not Guilty – A Critical Admission”

It may seem politically insensitive to talk about the blood of Jesus at the same time as the beautiful Christmas story. But the truth is that if Jesus was not going to die on the cross, He would have never been born in that stable 2,000 years ago. Discuss the importance of including an understanding of the redemption mission of Jesus as we remember His birth.

Read Ephesians 1:7, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” and Hebrews 10:28-29,

Exactly who is guilty of the shedding of the blood of Jesus?

Would you have been guilty of His blood if you were the only person alive when Jesus was born and died? How sobering is the idea that He would have died just for you, would have come to the earth to be born just for you?

Takeaway # 3 – “Thanks Be To That Precious Blood”

If you were to receive an amazingly valuable gift – a gift for which you had not contributed at all. How thankful would you be to the one who gave his or her all to give this gift to you?

Jesus’ blood is upon you and me, and covers our sins, because you and I are guilty. He came as a babe and died on a cross to pay the price for our guilt and to reunite us with the Eternal God, from Whom we were separated since the sin in the Garden.

With this sobering thought in mind, how thankful should we be as we celebrate Christmas this year? How grateful should we be every day? How often should we express our gratitude and thankfulness towards Him in joyful humility?

Conclusion

Remembering the cross should not put a negative spin on the details of Christmas. But it is necessary for us to realize why Jesus was born in the first place. It is a cause of worship and awe that we were loved so much that Jesus left such an infinitely high position and came here to be born as a human, vulnerable baby.

Choose one person that you know or meet, and explain to them the importance of the mission of Christ and how it started when He was born in that stable.