

**CHRISTMAS SERIES: BORN  
CHRISTMAS SERMON: BORN IN ME  
12-18-22**

**OPENER:**

*Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV) And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.*

*<sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

*“And she brought forth her firstborn Son....”*

The birth of Christ changed the world! His birth, marked an event so important that it divided history. His coming and His message was so powerful that it affected every inch of the known world. In the 2000 years since, both kings and common man have followed Him because of the transforming power of His words.

**THE ONE BORN IN A MANGER OFFERS NEW BIRTH TO US.**

*John 3:3 (NLT) Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.”*

- > Have you experienced the new birth of Christ?
- > Has Christ been born in you?
- > Have you been born again?

**I. NEW BIRTH BRINGS CHANGE**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

I am a NaNa! I am Nana four times over in the last four years!

Four granddaughters in 4 years. Hazel - Happy Birthday!

Most recently, my daughter, had the fourth - Stella Cay. We have experienced the change of new birth 4 times in the last 4 years! We have had lots of change!

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

*2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*

The Bible tells us that this born again experience makes us a new person! The phrase “*new creation*” refers to a fresh work of God, the bringing forth of a whole new existence. It is much more than having a mental belief or acknowledgment of Jesus. Reborn in Christ involves a life-changing encounter with Jesus where we are made new and whole.

The phrase “*in Christ*” means that you receive the person of Christ.

**CHRIST WAS BORN SO THAT HE COULD BE REBORN IN YOU.**

**HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO BECOME A DWELLING  
PLACE FOR JESUS?  
HAS CHRIST BEEN BORN IN YOU?**

When Jesus comes into your life he makes all things new.

>What about you?

>Are you the same person you have always been or has God made you new?

**WHEN YOU DO NOT RECOGNIZE YOURSELF ANYMORE, IS WHEN YOU KNOW  
THAT YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED NEW BIRTH.**

**WHAT CHANGES HAPPEN BECAUSE OF NEW BIRTH?**

**1. YOUR LIFESTYLE CHANGES**

**ILLUSTRATION:**

There is no other event that impacts our lives like the birth of a child. When you bring new life into your home, your life is changed forever. New birth is disruptive. New birth is like an explosion. The life that you knew before is gone. You are living a whole new life. Your life is changed so drastically that we categorize our life Before Kids and After Kids!

>A change of routine.

Your daily life looks completely different. The things that you use to do, you don't do anymore.....

> You use to sleep - You don't sleep.

> You use to go out and hang out with friends whenever you wanted - You don't do that anymore.

> You use to sit down at a table and eat -You don't eat at a table anymore. You eat standing up, You eat while you're getting dressed. You eat while you're changing a diaper.

**WHEN YOU CHRIST HAS BEEN BORN IN YOU YOUR  
DAILY LIFE CHANGES.  
NOT JUST YOUR SUNDAYS - YOUR MONDAY THRU**

## SATURDAY CHANGES.

>A change of habits.

*1 John 3:9 (NIV) No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God.*

### WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE NEW BIRTH YOUR HABITS CHANGE.

> You don't go anywhere or do anything alone anymore

#### ILLUSTRATION:

Going to the bathroom with kids.

Courtney, the kids all standing in the hall and yelling at the door.

*John 14:17 (NIV) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

WHEN YOU ARE REBORN IN CHRIST YOU ARE CONSCIOUSLY AWARE THAT  
HE IS WITH YOU AT ALL TIMES.

THAT IS WHY HE IS CALLED EMMANUEL - GOD WITH US.

## 2. YOUR PRIORITIES CHANGE

HOW DO YOUR PRIORITIES CHANGE? I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME  
PRIORITY CHANGES THAT HAPPEN:

### A. WHEN YOU ARE BORN AGAIN GOD COMES FIRST

#### ILLUSTRATION:

I remember bringing Jared, my son, my firstborn from the hospital. I remember for several weeks, waking up in a panic and sitting up and looking over into his bassinet. Laying my hand on his back to make sure he was breathing.

The realization that this new life was dependent on me consumed me. He became my first priority. I was motivated to do anything to protect this new life.

WHEN CHRIST IS BORN IN YOU, WHAT WAS IMPORTANT TO YOU BEFORE,  
ISN'T IMPORTANT ANYMORE.

HE BECOMES YOUR FIRST PRIORITY- YOUR FIRST MOTIVATION  
AND YOU WILL DO ANYTHING TO PROTECT THE LIFE OF GOD INSIDE OF YOU.

When God gave the 10 Commandments at Mount Sinai, He thundered these words.....

*Exodus 20:2-3 (NIV) "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.*

<sup>3</sup> *“You shall have no other gods before me.*

God does not want us to place anything before Him. His desire is that we worship Him and Him alone. He must come first in our lives.

## **B. YOU SERVE HIM BEFORE YOU SERVE OTHERS**

### **STORY:**

The Bible tells the story of two sisters, Mary and Martha, who were loyal friends of Jesus Christ.

*Luke 10:38-42 (NLT) As Jesus and the disciples continued on their way to Jerusalem, they came to a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. <sup>39</sup> Her sister, Mary, sat at the Lord’s feet, listening to what he taught. <sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by the big dinner she was preparing. She came to Jesus and said, “Lord, doesn’t it seem unfair to you that my sister just sits here while I do all the work? Tell her to come and help me.”*

*<sup>41</sup> But the Lord said to her, “My dear Martha, you are worried and upset over all these details! <sup>42</sup> There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”*

Serving others is highly commended in the Bible, and it is certainly not wrong to serve. But in this instance priorities were an issue. Listening to Christ’s teachings was even more important than food preparation.

## **C. HIS INSTRUCTION IS FIRST IN YOUR LIFE**

*John 14:15. (NLT) Jesus said this..... “If you love me, keep my commands.*

In the Bible there are examples of people who had distorted priorities, and who actually rejected Christ’s offer to become one of His disciples.....

*Luke 9:57-62 (NLT) As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.”*

*<sup>58</sup> But Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”*

*<sup>59</sup> He said to another person, “Come, follow me.”*

*The man agreed, but he said, “Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.”*

*<sup>60</sup> But Jesus told him, “Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.”*

*<sup>61</sup> Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.”*

*<sup>62</sup> But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.”*

Apparently, physical comfort and prosperity were of greater importance to some. For others, taking care of family matters was more crucial than supporting Christ in preaching the gospel.

None of their excuses were of themselves wrong. Is it wrong to stay with a father until he dies or to devote an extended period of time to saying farewell to family members? Certainly not!

Christ did not mean we should stop caring for our family. He was simply teaching that we are to put Him first in our lives.

### **3. YOU GET A NEW HEART**

*Ezekiel 36:26 (NIV) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.*

*John 3: 5-6 (NIV) Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.*

#### **ILLUSTRATION:**

That part of you that opens up when you have a child. The love that is suddenly there out of nowhere. Same with Christ.

#### **CLOSING:**

Do you need a change in your life today?

Do you feel dead and lifeless?

Have you lost all hope?

Do you not feel you have a future?

Are you searching for happiness? Are you searching for a purpose?

Tell the Lord, that you will be a dwelling place for Him.

That you surrender your life to Him , so that His life can be born in you!

Being reborn in Him is the only lasting change that you can count on.

Letting His life be born in you is where you find true happiness. The Bible calls it joy. It is an eternal happiness, and peace and contentment that doesn't change with your circumstances.