



**Part 1 – December 2, 2018**  
**Pastor Shannon Chapman**

*Matthew 1:18-23, This is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But before the marriage took place, while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. Joseph, to whom she was engaged, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her publicly, so he decided to break the engagement quietly. As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet: ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”*

## **Jesus Entered a Messy World**

John 1:14, “the Word became flesh.”

Doctrine of the Incarnation: Jesus, having a fully divine nature, took on Himself a human nature, possessing a body and living in a space-time, just like we do.

The fact that Jesus had become a human does not mean He had ceased to be any less God.

Jesus: divine nature + human nature = one person (this is a true mystery)

Points to Ponder: Understanding the reason that Jesus took on flesh and how this truth should affect us in our daily lives must be considered.

*Philippians 2:6-8, Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

Jesus in His incarnation:

- Abandoned a sovereign position
- Accepted a servant's place
- Approached a sinful people
- Adopted a selfless posture

*Philippians 2:9-11, Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

God's ultimate reason for sending Jesus in the flesh was to bestow His Son with honor and glory forever as the Redeemer of humanity.

His highest motivation was love – God is glorified when His love is put on display and when the lost are moved to love Him in return.

C.S. Lewis says, “The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.”

## **We Entered a Messy World**

We come into this world needing a Savior because creation and creatures are lost.

*Ephesians 2:8, For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God.*

Christmas is not about us finding God; Christmas reminds us that God comes to us and finds us.

*Colossians 3:2, Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

My circumstances may be in the upside down—My mind is fixed on God!

My heart may be anxious—My mind is fixed.

Soul may be aching—My mind is fixed.

My emotions may be racing—My mind is fixed.

## **His Best Present to Us**

The gift of His presence is the best present we could ever receive during Christmas.

Christmas points us to this Gospel reminder: Jesus came to our place, He took our place, and He invites us back to His place.