

Sermon Notes 12/24/23

“What Child is This?”

1. This is Christ, the _____, and we must _____ Him.

Luke 1:30-33

Matthew 2:4-6

Luke 1:38

2. This is the _____ of the world, and we must _____ Him.

Luke 2:10-11

Luke 2:15-18

Matthew 1:20-21

3. This is the Son of _____, and we must _____ Him.

Luke 1:35

John 1:1-3, & 14

Hebrews 4:15-16

Philippians 2:5-11



Life Group Discussion Questions

December 24-31

Luke 2:1-20

In 1865, William Dix, an insurance salesman in Scotland, came down with a severe illness. He thought he was going to die. While recovering, he spent a lot of time praying and meditating on God's word. During that time, he wrote several hymns, including the lyrics to the famous Christmas carol, "What Child is This."

The title of the song poses a question which the verses and the chorus seek to answer. The question, "What child is this?" communicates the wonder and mystery that must have filled the hearts and minds of all those who encountered the Christ child.

As we sing the words of this carol, we join the Shepherds, who went to the manger in Bethlehem that night. The question posed by the title reflects what the shepherds must have been thinking as they watched the baby sleeping on Mary's lap. Over 2000 years later, the question, "What child is this?" is still just as relevant for us today.

Read Luke 2:1-20

1. Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem? (2:1-5)
2. Why did Mary place her newborn baby in a manger? (2:6-7)

Leon Morris notes,

That he was laid in a manger has traditionally been taken to mean that Jesus was born in a stable. He may have been. But it is also possible that the birth took place in a very poor home where the animals shared the same roof as the family. A tradition going back to Justin says it occurred in a cave and this could be right. Some have thought that the birth took place in the open air, that being where a manger would likely be. We do not know. We know only that everything points to poverty, obscurity and even rejection.¹

¹ Leon Morris, *Luke: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008), 100-101.

3. When and where did the angel appear to the shepherds? (2:8-9)

Mark Moore observes,

Shepherding was among the lowliest of occupations. It was scorned because the work made it next to impossible to strictly observe the regulations of the law. We see then, from the beginning, God extends his mercy to social outcasts... These lowly shepherds may well have been keeping watch over the sacrificial lambs. In other words, when they get big enough, they will be shipped up to Jerusalem and slain for the sins of Israel. They are about to get a glimpse of the Lamb of God, who will die for the sins of the world (Jn 1:29).²

4. How did the shepherds react when they saw the angel? (2:9)

5. What message did the angel bring to the shepherds? (2:10-12)

6. How were the shepherds supposed to identify the Christ child? (2:12)

7. How many angels did the shepherds hear praising God? (2:13)

8. What did the angels say in their song of praise? (2:14)

9. What did the shepherds do after the angels left? (2:15-16)

10. What did the shepherds do after they found the Messiah? (2:17-20)

11. What kind of reactions did the shepherds get when they told others what had happened that night? (2:18)

12. What did Mary do with all her memories of the nativity? (2:19)

13. What did the shepherds do after they told people about the birth of Christ? (2:20)

² Mark Moore, *The Chronological Life of Christ* (Joplin, MO: College Press, 2007), 51.

14. If you had been with the shepherds that night, what would you have been thinking after the angels left?
15. What can we learn from the actions and attitudes of the shepherds?
16. How can we find opportunities to share our faith with others?
17. How can you share the message of good news and great joy?
18. How will you glorify and praise God with other Christians this week?

What Child Is This

Verse 1

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Verse 2

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and donkeys are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Verse 3

So, bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.