

Born Under the Law

Text: Gal. 4:4-5

INTRODUCTION: How strange it must have seemed to the wise men as they traveled hundreds of miles to find that: The greatest of all kings was born in the most humble of all circumstances.

- Not in a palace, but in a stable
- Not laid in a royal bed, but a feed trough.
- Not born in a bustling metropolis like Rome or even Jerusalem, but the little town of Bethlehem.

They followed a STAR and found a STABLE.

Imagine if you will these Royal Advisors from the Medo-Persian Empire seated upon their camels, surrounded by their servants, arrayed in purple and fine linen, carrying gifts of Gold, Francensence and Myrrh. Prepared for an introduction a royal introduction.

- Only to find a little dirty faced boy.
- Overseen by a carpenter and a peasant girl.
- The few words he spoke, he spoke with a thick rural Galileen accent.

One turns to the other and says, “**behold your king**” how strange that statement must have sounded under such circumstances.

It must have seemed just as strange when they were uttered again **30 some odd years later** when they were spoken by Pilate at the trial of Jesus.

- A crown of thorns upon His head.
- Accused of Blasphemy for making himself equal with God the Father.
- Spat upon, scourged, beaten beyond recognition.

He was brought bloody and disfigured before the people and Pilate said, “**Behold your King**”.

Yet the pitiful conditions of his birth, and the pitiful conditions of his death were not nearly **INCIDENTAL but they were FUNDAMENTAL.**

CONTEXT: Paul points that out In **Galatians 4** He is writing to a Church that has become caught up in legalism.

Some highly persuasive preachers had passed through town and no doubt highly affirmed Jesus and said Jesus is wonderful, Jesus is the Savior, but then

they added a little something to it... no that where you have to watch out. They said Jesus accomplished 90% of your salvation... but if you REALLY want to be saved you need to become like a Jew and get circumcised.

Paul became so angry at their perversion of the Gospel of Grace that he made one of the most harsh statement in all of scripture. He said if they think circumcision makes you holy, I wish they would go ahead and emasculate themselves.

Paul said, "If I (Paul) or an Angel from Heaven comes and preaches a Gospel contrary to the one you have received... may he be accursed!"

When you read the bible don't read it robotically... when you see the Apostle get upset about something... read between the lines.... **what must be true if this upsets Paul so much???**

**It's simply that to add ANYTHING to Jesus
is to take EVERYTHING away from Jesus.**

Well in Chapter 4 Paul is sealing the deal on his argument. And to do so, he turns their attention toward Christmas.

What does Christmas have to do with being delivered from legalism? I'm glad you asked...

TEXT: Galatians 4:4–5 (ESV) ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

I want to show you how the Christmas story just might be the key to you enjoying your freedom in Christ in 2020. 4 Things I want to show you...

1. **Notice The Plan of his Coming**

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come,

Have you ever wondered why Jesus came when He did?

- Why not in our day?
- Why not 1000 years earlier?
- Why not right after Adam sinned?

Simply because the time had to be fulfilled. What time? The time that humanity spent... UNDER the Law.

Paul explained that God gave the Law as a schoolmaster to point us to Christ. You see God gave the law to convince us of our inability.

Think of it -

- **Adam and Eve** had ONE LAW, don't eat of the tree in the center of the Garden. Could they keep that one law? NO!
- **Moses** on Sinai gave the people 10 laws - but could they keep it? NO, when he showed up with the commandments they were in the process of breaking all of them.
- No friend their are hundreds of law in God's Word, **Jesus** expanded them to say that they speak not only to your deeds, but to your heart intention.
 - So not just, "don't commit adultery" but don't desire it.
 - No just, "Don't murder" but don't hate a person in your heart.

God gave the LAW to get us lost, God gave JESUS to get us saved.

I have learned that the most difficult job in the bible belt is to get a fella lost. If you can get him lost, it's not difficult to get him saved.

But our whole lives we've been told, "Your good enough, your smart enough, and dog gone it, people like you"

Our generation got trophies for participating.
We were told that we can do anything, be anything, have anything.

To that crowd the Bible sounds like an awfully pessimistic book.

- It tells you that you are dead in your trespasses and sins
- It tells you that it's harder for a camel to get through a needles eye than for most of you to get to heaven.
- It tells you that all your righteousness is as filthy rags.

WHY? Because God knows you can't get found till you realize you are lost!

And when the fullness of time came for the World...God sent Jesus.
In the same way... when God gets you to a point of desperation, helplessness, surrender... God sends Jesus to you.

Not only the Plan of His coming... notice secondly

1. The Propriety of His Coming

Paul says,⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman,

For salvation to be provided... It was essential that the **Son of God** become the **Son of Man.**

Scripture records several spectacular births.

- Rebecca at 100 years old gave birth to Isaac.
- Hannah was barren before she gave birth to Samuel
- Elizabeth was barren before she gave birth to John the Baptist.

But the virgin birth of Jesus surpasses them all.

In LUKE 1:34 the angel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Messiah...Mary in bewilderment asks, ³⁴“How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

ILLUSTRATION: Larry King said, when asked, “if you could interview anyone from history who would it be?”, he said, “I would want to interview Mary the mother of Jesus, because if I could understand the virgin birth I would be a Christian”.

Friend, You don't have to understand to believe;

- **Vance Havner said,** *“I don't understand electricity but I'm not going to set around in the dark until I do.”*
- *My Pastor used to say, “I don't understand how a black cow makes white milk that when churned makes yellow butter” But I enjoyed all three for breakfast.*

***If God was small enough to fit in your temporal head,
he wouldn't be big enough to redeem your eternal soul.***

God is not bound by the laws he himself created in the Universe he himself made!

2. The Place of his Coming

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, **born under the law,**

Now last week I talked to you about the LITERAL Place of His Birth Bethlehem....but this morning I want to focus on the LEGAL place of His birth

The phrase...“**Under the law**” occurs 12 times in Paul's epistles

- a. **“Under the law” It means Jesus was born a man**

- The law has no commands for God.
- The law does not speak of the character of Deity.
- The law is a document specifically for the human race.

Jesus must be born as a human, if he would save humanity.

Without the shedding of blood there could be no remission of sins.

A human ADAM got us into this mess and a human JESUS would have to get us out of this mess.

b. **“Under the law” It means he was a Jew**

1 Corinthians 9:20

²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law;

Jesus came as a Jew. Don't be mistaken by these pictures of a blond haired, blue eyed Jesus. Nothings wrong with blond hair and blue eyes, but my friend Jesus came to the Jews as a Jew.

- ***He was the promised SEED of Abraham.***
- ***He was of the Kingly lineage of David.***

So Jesus came as a man, Jesus came as a Jew but it also means....

c. ***It means that he was obligated to fulfill the law perfectly***

Romans 3:19 ¹⁹Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God

Jesus being born under the Law was fully accountable to the Law. Our accuser would become His accuser, yet without any accusation to bring.

Jesus was obligated to fulfill the law perfectly.

- He was obligated to never hate, for hate was the equivalent to murder
- He was obligated to never lust, for lust was the equivalent to adultery
- He was obligated to honor his father and his mother
- He was obligated never to lie, never to exaggerate, never to mislead
- He was obligated at every moment of every day to love God with all his heart, soul, mind and strength...

Galatians 3:10 ¹⁰For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, "CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM."

The Bible says plainly: Whosoever keeps the whole law, yet stumbles in one point is guilty of the whole.

The Bible calls Jesus

- *He who knew no sin*
- *The spotless lamb of God*
- *He was tempted in all manner even as we, yet without sin*

Well we have looked at the PLAN, PROPRIETY, PLACE of the Coming....

3. The Profit of his Coming

⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Two great gifts wrapped up in the person of Christ to those who believe- **a. Freedom from the Law**

The Galatian Christians had become enamored with the Law of the Hebrews and were drifting in to legalism. Paul was saying, Jesus saved us from the law why are you wanting to live under it?

Legalism is a feeble attempt to earn the grace of God.

Do you realize that because of Jesus - *"There is nothing I can do to make God love me more and there is nothing I can do to make God love me less"*.

- A Christian of all people should know the Joy of the Lord.
- A Christian of all people should enjoy life.

Don't walk through 2020 under the cruel taskmaster of legalism.

It was for freedom that Christ set us free.

You know why I want to avoid legalism with a passion? Because I've observed that throughout history one generations legalism becomes another generations lostness.

LISTEN: Jesus was born under the law and he fulfilled it perfectly on my behalf - so now the dominant law in my life is to love God with all my heart and to love

my neighbor as myself.

Not only that...

b. To Give Us the Full Standing as Sons- that we might receive the adoption as sons.

There are many attempts to produce a gender neutral version of the bible. So when it says Men it's translated Humanity. When it says, "Sons" it's changed to Sons and Daughters.

But you must understand that the text as it is greatly elevates women and makes them equals with men.

In this culture a woman couldn't receive the inheritance.

The rights, privileges, blessings, wealth of the family goes to sons.

LISTEN - because my little girl has trusted Jesus, she gets every benefit that a son receives.

So because Jesus was born according the God Plan, at the Proper time, in the right Place, for all of eternity I get to enjoy the marvelous Profits of being in Christ.

What about you?