

“COME, LET US ADORE HIM”

“His Undiminished Deity”

Scripture Reading – Matthew, 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”.

All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us”.

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

‘For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’

Isaiah, 9:6, NIV

This series for Advent is based around the theme: ‘COME, LET US ADORE HIM’.

In it, we consider four different reasons why we should adore Jesus as we prepare ourselves for the celebration of his birth this Christmas: ‘HIS UNEQUALLED BIRTH’ ... ‘HIS UNBLEMISHED LIFE’ ... ‘HIS UNDIMINISHED DEITY’ ... and, ‘HIS UNQUESTIONED LORDSHIP’.

Jesus did not have his start in Bethlehem.

He stepped out from Glory, and he did it just for you! God being made flesh was necessary for your salvation. Jesus’ Christmas gift to you is his legacy, his life and his Lordship. As you listen to this series, it is my prayer that you will gain insight into his matchless gift to you.

HIS UNEQUALLED BIRTH

The virgin birth is not incidental to faith and belief, it is fundamental.

This key doctrine of the Christian faith asserts that Jesus was conceived in the womb of his mother, the Virgin Mary, without the participation of a human father. This ‘MIRACULOUS

CONCEPTION’ took place when the Holy Spirit ‘OVERSHADOWED’ Mary. The Virgin Birth does not depend on your understanding of it to be true. The angel ended his conversation with Mary by saying: **“NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD”.**

Whose blood flowed through the arteries and veins of Jesus?

Of course, God is spirit, so he has no blood, Or does he? Paul said that the Church was saved through the blood of God himself. As the Son of God, Jesus did not share the sinful human nature of man.

HIS UNBLEMISHED LIFE

Are you ready for Christ?

Simeon was ready for the first Christmas because he had settled four important questions in his life: ‘ARE YOU SAVED?’, ‘ARE YOU SURRENDERED?’, ‘ARE YOU SPIRITUAL?’, ‘ARE YOU SENSITIVE?’. If we want to be ready for Christ to come, we need to answer “YES” to all four.

What did Christ do that makes us want to adore him?

Because Jesus is the Saviour of the World, he brings deliverance. As the Light of the World, he dispels darkness. As the chosen and precious cornerstone, Jesus determines destiny. As a sign (a miracle) that will be spoken against, he provokes derision.

“HIS UNDIMINISHED DEITY”

‘When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets”. “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”.

Matthew, 16:13-16, NIV

The disciples answered Jesus’ question with the common view.

They echoed the belief that Jesus was one of the great prophets come back to life. This belief probably stemmed from **Deuteronomy, 18:18**, where God said he would raise up a prophet from among the people. Peter, however, confessed Jesus as divine and as the promised and long-awaited Messiah.

If Jesus were to ask you this question, how would you answer? ‘Who is Jesus?’



Some people say Jesus was a great man.

In a book, **H G Wells** listed the ten greatest men in history and placed Jesus at number one. But to compare Jesus with Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, William Shakespeare and the like is to compare a grain of dust to the universe or a molehill to Mount Everest. Jesus is more than a great man; he is **THE ONE AND ONLY SON OF GOD**.



Some say Jesus was a moral teacher.

Those who claim this miss the real point. Yes, Jesus made and gave moral teaching, but he also made some remarkable claims about his nature and his mission during his life,

death and resurrection. If the person who made such claims was merely a man, then what he claimed for himself would make him a fraud, or as C S Lewis sates, 'A LUNATIC'!

Some say Jesus was a prophet.

The Koran teaches that Jesus was a prophet, a messenger and servant of Allah. As Christians, we believe that Jesus is much, much, more – he is God in human flesh.

'The Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.'

Isaiah, 7:14, NIV

The 'THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD' were all involved in the Christmas Story.

'An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins". All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us".'

Matthew, 1:20-23, NIV

GOD, THE FATHER

When Moses met God in the burning bush on Mount Sinai, he wanted to know who he should say was sending him to rescue God's people from slavery in Egypt. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" and told him to say that "I AM" had sent Moses to the descendants of Jacob (see **Exodus, 3:14**). When God revealed his name as the great 'I AM', he revealed his name as 'YHWH' or Jehovah.

GOD, THE SON

The Pharisees were envious of Jesus and, discounting the possibility of the virgin birth, implied he was born of fornication. Jesus' reply was so astounding that they considered his words blasphemy and sought to stone him in accordance with the Law of Moses.

'Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad". "You are not yet fifty years old", the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth", Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I AM!".'

John, 8:56-58, NIV

This is one of the most powerful statements uttered by Jesus.

When he said that he existed before Abraham was born, he undeniably proclaimed his divinity. Not only did Jesus say that he existed before Abraham; he also applied God's holy name. This claim demands a response. It cannot be ignored. The Jewish leaders tried to stone Jesus for blasphemy because he claimed equality with God. But Jesus is God. How will you respond to the claims of Jesus, the Son of God?

GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

The angel informed Mary that the Holy Spirit would 'OVERSHADOW' her.

The Holy Spirit is not an influence, the Holy Spirit is not an 'it', HE is a person – the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person who acts, feels, wills, and can be abused and grieved. You cannot grieve an influence – only a person who knows and loves you.

'Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God".'

Acts, 5:3-4, NIV

1. AN UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY

'Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.'

I Timothy, 3:16, NIV

The Virgin Birth does not depend on your understanding of it to be true.

For example, I do not know how a brown cow can eat green grass and produce white milk that can be churned into yellow butter. We experience many things in life, we do not understand. For example, I do not understand how electricity works, but I do not sit in the dark wondering and waiting to understand. No, I flick the switch and the light comes on.

Try and learn this lesson today: "GOD CAN DO ANYTHING HE PLEASES BECAUSE HE IS GOD".

God made Adam and Eve without a mother and a father. God just took a piece of clay (which he had already created out of nothing – 'EX NIHILO') and fashioned the first man, Adam. He took a rib from a sleeping Adam and used it to fashion the first woman, Eve.

John Wesley asked, "How can a worm understand a man?"

We often compare one thing to another; or even one person to another. But we cannot do that with God. There is not one thing, or one person that comes remotely close to being God.

"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One.'

Isaiah, 40:25, NIV

'It reminds me of the story of a girl who was going out with two men – eventually she came clean and told one of the men that she was seeing another. He was angry and said, "Wait until I see him, I will teach him a lesson he will never forget". The woman said, "I have kissed you both – and you cannot teach him anything!"'

Some wise person said, "Do not try to explain the trinity; if you do, you might lose your mind. Do not try to explain the trinity away; if you do, you might lose your salvation".

2. AN UNFOLDED MANIFESTATION

‘All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us”.’

Matthew, 1:22-23, NIV

The angel of the Lord told how the Old Testament prophecy would be fulfilled.

This Jesus, a baby born in a stable and placed in a manger in Bethlehem was a fulfilment of words of prophecy. But Scripture shows us the real standing of Jesus. He made it all – the manger, the stable, Bethlehem, Israel, the World. What Scripture tells us is that the Babe of Bethlehem was the Mighty God of Creation we read about in **Genesis, 1:1**.

‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.’

John, 1:1-3, NIV

What Jesus taught and what he did are tied inseparably to who he is.

Although Jesus took upon himself full humanity and lived as a man, he never ceased to be the Eternal God who has always existed – the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and the source of eternal life. This is the truth about Jesus, and the foundation of all truth. If we cannot or do not believe this basic truth, we will not have enough faith to trust our eternal destiny to him.

‘He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.’

Colossians, 1:15-17, NIV

This is one of the strongest statements about the divine nature of Christ in the Bible.

Jesus is not only equal to God, he is God. As the visible image of the invisible God, he is the exact representation of God. Jesus not only reflects God, but he reveals God to us. As supreme over all creation, he has all the priority and authority. Jesus came from heaven, not from the dust of the earth, and he is Lord of all. Jesus is completely holy, and he has authority to judge the world. Therefore, Christ is supreme over all creation. We must believe in the deity of Jesus Christ or our Christian faith is hollow, misdirected, and absolutely meaningless.

3. AN UNCHANGING MINISTRY

‘An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”.’

Matthew, 1:20-21, NIV

‘God’s gifts are many; his best gift is one. It is the gift of himself. Above all gifts, God desires most to give himself to his people. Our nature being what it is, we are the best fitted of all creatures to know and enjoy God. “For thou madest us for thyself, and our heart is restless, until it repose in thee”.’

“THE CONFESSIONS OF ST AUGUSTINE”, Augustine

The name ‘JESUS’ means ‘SAVIOUR’.

This is the Greek version of the Hebrew name ‘JOSHUA’. In the Old Testament, there are two well-known Joshua’s: the soldier who led Israel into Canaan (see the Book of Joshua), and the high priest mentioned in **Zechariah, Ch 3**. Christ is the Captain of our Salvation, leading us to victory and he is our Great High Priest, representing us before the throne of God.

Jesus came to save us because we cannot save ourselves.

No matter how good we are, we cannot eliminate the sinful nature present in all of us. Only Jesus can do that. Jesus did not come to help people save themselves; he came to be their Saviour from the power and penalty of sin.

‘The very wealthy Lord Fitzgerald had only one child, a son, who understandably was the apple of his eye, the centre of his affection. The son grew up, but in his early teens his mother died. Fitzgerald grieved over the loss of his wife but devoted himself to fathering their son. A few years passed and the son became very ill and died in his late teens. In the meantime, the Fitzgerald financial holdings greatly increased. Lord Fitzgerald had used much of his wealth to acquire art works of ‘the masters’.

‘Previous to his death Fitzgerald carefully prepared his will with explicit instructions as to how his estate would be settled. He directed that there would be an auction in which his entire art collection would be sold. Because of the quantity and quality of his collection, which was valued in millions of pounds, a huge crowd of prospective buyers gathered, expectantly. Among them were many museum curators and private collectors eager to bid.

‘The art works were displayed for viewing before the auction began. Among them was one painting which received little attention. It was of poor quality and painted by an unknown local artist. It happened to be a portrait of Fitzgerald’s only son. When the time came for the auction to begin, a lawyer read from the will of Lord Fitzgerald which instructed that the first painting to be auctioned was the painting ‘MY BELOVED SON’.

‘The poor quality painting did not receive any bids... except one. The only bidder was the old servant who had known the son and loved him and served him, and for sentimental reasons offered the only bid. For less than one Pound he bought the painting. The auctioneer asked the lawyer to read again from the will. The crowd was hushed, it was quite unusual, and the lawyer read: “Whoever buys the painting of my son gets all my art collection. The auction is over”.’

“THE FINAL BID”, Robert Strand

Thank Christ for his death on the cross for your sin, and ask him to take control of your life. Your new life begins at that moment you receive God’s Son – and you receive it all.