

December 20th Sunday 2015

Text: Luke 2:1-14

Topic: The Birth of Jesus

The birth of Jesus has great element of history because right from the origin of the Roman Empire it had not indeed been a census of the people up to this period when Jesus was born. This is the first witness to the world. He is the savior of the world. But they did not get a good place for him to be born, only where they take care of the animals. The news of his birth is given with glory because the angels of God brought the message to shepherds who have no influence, but God chose them to bring this message to the world. The Lord used to choose the weak so that his name will be glorified.

Lesson: our savior came to the world today.

Prayer: Lord we thank you that you renewed our hearts. Amen.

December 21st Monday

Text: Luke 2:7

Topic: There was no room for them in the inn

It is right that we should listen to the familiar words of the Christmas story as though we were hearing them for the first time. We can never cease to wonder at the creation which God offers to us constantly. The nativity can never become for us merely a precious bit of archaic lore, a cherished memory of a distant day. For it is the beginning of the story whereby we understand how God came into the world for all time and for all men. Christmas is a recollection of something which has happened – yes; but it is also a recollection of something which is happening now.

We give ourselves undividedly to the wonderful fact that God is here among us. *Immanuel*. For the moment that is enough; and we need a respite from the haunting fore-knowledge of what the world will do to the Son of God.

Naturally St. Luke knows the end of the story when he wrote this Christmas narrative. And surely he must have recognized the dramatic appropriateness of the fact that Jesus began his life by being his shut out. "There was no room for them in the inn." *Men tried to shut God out, but He was born in a manger just the same.*

One hardly need dwell upon the fact that we are still shutting out today. Jesus simply doesn't belong in this world. He doesn't belong where one has to make living by competitive triumph over others. He doesn't belong where men are so caught in wholesale destruction that they have time to think of Heaven only in the last fleeting moment when death is crashing down upon them.

Lesson: there is no room for him here. That's a fact. But the fact is that God comes into the world, nevertheless. He is born in manger. He belongs to the outcast, the downtrodden, and the humble. He is destined to be a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief-wounded for our transgressions, by whose stripes we are healed. He belongs to everything in the heart of man which is still capable of contrition and mercy.

Prayer: Lord Jesus baffle us with the touches of wonder with which the Christmas story is surrounded are an indispensable part of it. Make us to believe the Christmas story just as St. Luke tells it. Amen.

December 22nd Tuesday 2015

Text: Luke 2:15-20

Topic: The shepherds gave witness to the birth of Jesus

One of the EYN-ICT (information communication technology) workers said that if you want to get the news of a town you should ask the water carriers or the motorcycle drivers. They will give the actual happening. The well-to-do will despise any relationship with them, but they have the news in their hands. The birth of Jesus was important to the common man. God chose those who have no favor in the eyes of the world to bring the news of the birth of our savior to the rich and the poor, those with or without favor, the blind and the lame. They got God's blessing before anybody in the world got it. There is a connection. Jesus is the good shepherd, the giver of peace.

Lesson: The birth of Jesus brought peace to the world.

Prayer: Lord gives us your eternal peace. Amen.

December 23rd Wednesday 2015

Text: Luke 2:21-24.

Topic: Jesus Dedicated at the Temple

On the eight day as written in the law of Moses (Exodus. 13:2, 12), Mary and Joseph took the child Jesus to the Temple. They carried out the requirement of the law based on their income level. They presented pigeons, which means they did not afford a lamb for the sacrifice.

Our God made everything perfect for all those who would follow him that is to both the rich and the poor. Do not go beyond what you can afford to celebrate the birth of our savior. Also never go beyond your economic status to celebrate the birth of your own child. Please as much as possible, avoid hypocrisy. It is the spiritually upbringing of your child that is most vital. Present your child to the Lord in the church and your pastor will pray for the body.

Lesson: What have we learnt about our children today?

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for the children you blessed us with, help us to appreciate them in your own ways. Amen.

December 24th Thursday 2015

Text: Luke 2:25-35.

Topic: Simeon praised God for the child Jesus

Here we have read that Simeon was both devout and righteous and was advanced in years. At the time Jesus was presented at the temple, Simeon was there. The Holy Spirit told him that this was the child he has been waiting for. When he saw the child, he took him in his arms and praised God saying; see verse 29-39 again. Mary and Joseph marveled at what was spoken by Simeon. Then Simeon blessed them and also prophesied to them concerning the child Jesus. He told them that Jesus will either cause people to joyfully accept Him or totally reject Him. His mother Mary will be grieved by the widespread rejection her son Jesus will face (v. 35b). This was an allusion to Jesus crucifixion. Has Jesus brought joy to your life and family?

Lesson: Know that the Holy Spirit helps you to know and believe Jesus better.

Prayer: Lord, thank you for sending your Spirit to open our eyes to your plan. Amen.

December 25th Friday 2015

Text: Luke 2:36-40

Topic: Anna the prophetess spoke about the child

Anna was a prophetess well advanced in years and widow after lived with her husband for seven years after their marriage, and then the man died. She decided to live the rest of her life as a responsible widow committed to the Lord (v.37)

When Mary and Joseph presented the child Jesus in the temple, the prophetess saw the child Jesus and she understood who this child was and she also spoke about Him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Israel. You can be sure that there were other children that were brought to the temple since it was a biblical and lawful requirement, but when this very child was brought into the temple, all this revelation came up.

Lesson: What have you learnt from the life of Anna?

Prayer: Lord fills me with the power to tell others that Jesus is the savior. Amen.

December 26th Saturday 2015

Text: Luke 24:50-53

Topic: The Great joy

Luke filled his Gospel with joy and praise to God from the beginning to the end. The first two chapters contain the songs of several people: Mary, Zachariah, the angels and Simon. On a number of occasions we read of people lifting voices in praise to God, particularly those held of emotional, physical and spiritual illness.

There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents, and the returned of the lost son requires a celebration. Jesus acceptance of Zacchaeus calls for an unabashed response of gladness. Luke's call to joy and praise provides the norm for our daily living' as we rejoice in God's saving work within us, no matter what our external circumstances are.

Lesson: Have you ever lifted up your voice in praise to God, because of his wonders to heal and provided of your needs?

Prayer: Everlasting God call me to joy and praise that shall provide the norm for my daily living, no matter what my external circumstances are. Amen.