

WHAT KIND OF MAN IS THIS

Luke 2:1-20

Introduction: What kind of man is this whose birthday we are celebrating? What kind of man is this whose life has changed the world?

All of us know the story of His birth, how He was born in a manger on a lonely night. This man grew up in a sheltered mountain village and had four brothers and two sisters. He attended a synagogue school and grew up in a normal home, sharing normal duties. He knew how to fill the lamps and trim the wicks. He knew what house cleaning involved and he knew how to build a fire. When His dad died (Joseph), He became the head of the family and all the while there was a fire burning within His heart. He lived each day with increasing awareness of a divine mission.

What kind of man is this whose tiny fingers tightly gripped His mother's thumb, who someday would stretch these same hands and fingers out in healing and saving powers. He was a unique man. He never wrote a book, never led an army, never went to college, never had a family of His own, had no newspaper to advertise in, no army to fight for Him, no wealthy friend to support Him and no political friends to advance Him in society.

From His birth to His death there were certain reactions to Him as little children ran to Him when they heard His voice and the old ones found comfort in His presence. The sick found healing by merely touching the hem of His garment. He was popular but He was also had hours of being unpopular.

Hardly had He been born than the king tried to kill Him. The religious leaders turned against Him and He was betrayed by those He trusted and abandoned by those He loved. He was whipped by those He pitied, crowned with a crown of thorns and then carried His cross to an outlaw's grave.

He who was born in a borrowed manger, rode in triumph on a borrowed donkey, and was laid in a borrowed tomb. No one believed that He would rise from the tomb and yet on the third day, like He promised, He arose from the grave.

This man, Jesus, whose birthday we are celebrating, began His earthly life by a miracle and ended His earthly by a miracle. We stand before a cradle that has no equal, a cross that has no parallel, and before a grave that is empty. He has changed the world. It has never been the same since He stepped into it.

I. WHAT IF HE HAD NOT COME?

1. Can you imagine picking up your hymnal and thumbing through it, finding no Christmas carols, no hymns of praise, mentioning the name of Jesus?
2. If Christ Jesus had not come, there would be no Christmas tree, no Christmas pagents, no Christmas programs, no Christmas presents, no carol singing, and very little hymn singing. There would simply be no Christmas.

II. THERE WOULD BE NO NEW TESTAMENT IF HE HAD NOT COME

1. As you turn your pages in the Bible, you would run across Genesis, Numbers, Kings, Haggai, Malachi, but it would end there. If Christ had not come, there would be no New Testament.
2. If Christ had not come, there would be no Matthew, Mark, Luke or John, no sermon on the mount with the beatitudes, no miracles of Jesus healing the sick and lame, no parables like the Good Samaritan.
3. Instead of 66 books in the Bible, there would be only 39.

III. IF HE HAD NOT COME, THERE WOULD BE NO SALVATION

1. Christ came and died that you and I might live. If He had not come, there would be no story of Calvary. We would not sing "Jesus Paid it All" or "Rock of Ages" or "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" or "The Old Rugged Cross" nor "Since Jesus Came into My Heart."

2. We would still be under the Old Testament way, offering animal sacrifices and since we are Gentiles, we would probably be unknowing of Almighty God. We would be like some of the people of today who still live in spiritual darkness.

IV. THERE WOULD BE NO CHURCH IF HE HAD NOT COME

1. Imagine coming to what you thought was a Church and upon walking into it, you found it dark with a heavy, sickening odor of burning incense hanging heavily in the air. As you looked about in the dim light, you could see several people bowing down to weird looking objects.
2. Yes, If Jesus had not come, there would be no Church, no pastors, no deacons, no Sunday School, no youth programs. There would be no Christian organizations of any kind.

V. THERE WOULD BE NO "BY-PRODUCTS" OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

1. There would be no hospitals, no Red Cross, no ambulances, no senior adult homes, no orphanages, not many colleges or universities as most are Christian founded.
2. There would be no Christian influences in the world today. Servants and women would still be buried alive with their masters and husbands when they died. Babies would be thrown into the bushes to die, old folks would be left outside for the wild animals to devour. Women would be considered as items to trade, give away or do whatever with.

VI. IF JESUS HAD NOT COME THERE WOULD BE NO HOPE

1. Death is universal. It is everywhere. It doesn't care about our plans and it will one day reach YOU.
2. But the gloom of death was removed by Jesus for He brings eternal life to those who believe in Him.
3. Imagine visiting a dying friend and not being able to comfort him/her by reading from the Bible verses of hope and peace.
4. But Jesus did come and we do have Christmas carols and hymns. We do have the New Testament and we do have salvation and a glorious future.

CONCLUSION:

1. What if Jesus had not come? But He did and that is what we are celebrating today, this time of the year.
2. Do you know personally this Jesus whose birthday we are celebrating?
3. What will you give Him for His birthday? The greatest thing you can give Him is yourself.

(This message is not original with me)