

WHAT MANNER OF MAN IS THIS

Luke 2:8-20; John 3:16

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: What manner of man is this whose birthday we are celebrating? What manner of man is this whose life changed the world? Let us learn more about this man named Jesus.

I. THIS MAN JESUS

1. Know the story of His birth and of His home life -

- He was born in a manger on a lonely night.
- He grew up in a sheltered mountain village with 4 brothers and 2 sisters. He attended a synagogue school.
 - He grew up in a normal home, sharing duties. He knew how to fill the lamps and trim the wicks.
 - He knew what house-cleaning involved and knew how to build a fire.
- When Joseph (His earthly father) died, this man became the head of the family.
- All this time of growing up, there was a "fire" burning within Him and He lived each day with an increasing awareness of a divine mission.

2. What manner of man is this whose tiny feet at birth would walk through the pages of history?

- Whose eyes that could hardly follow the swishing of the animal's tails would someday shine as the sun and pierce the cold hearts of man.

3. What manner of man is this whose tiny fingers tightly gripped His mother's thumb?

- Who someday would stretch those same hands and fingers out to healing and saving powers.

4. Jesus 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 - little children ran to Him when they heard His voice - the old ones found comfort in His presence - the sick found healing by merely touching the hem of His clothing.
- He was popular but He also had times of unpopularity.
- He had barely been born when the king tried to kill him - the religious leaders turned against Him - He was betrayed by those He trusted - abandoned by those He loved - whipped by those He pitted, crowned with a crown of thorns - carried His own cross to an "outlaw's" grave (His own).
- He who had been born in a borrowed manger - who rode on a borrowed donkey - was laid away upon death in a borrowed tomb. No one believed that he would rise from the tomb - YET on the third day, like He had promised, He arose from the grave.

5. This man, Jesus, whose birthday we are celebrating, began His earthly life by a miracle and ended His earthly life 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.
- Jesus has changed the world - it has never been the same since Jesus walked into it.

II. THIS MAN JESUS CAME BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR US

1. **John 3:16** - This passage is perhaps the greatest Christmas text in the Bible
2. It points not only to Bethlehem but also to Calvary.
3. We must remember why God's Son, Jesus, came to this earth and what caused Him to come.

CONCLUSION:

1. Let us open our hearts to Jesus - Christmas carols are being heard over the radio and television and we are singing them in our worship services.
 - The music is pleasant to our ears and we don't just pass them off like the other songs/hymns for we remember the real, true reason for Christmas.
2. Let us not close our hearts to the message these Christmas carols bring, let us allow the words, the message sink deep into our hearts.
 - Jesus said, "*...Behold, I stand at the door and knock...*" This is a way Jesus can enter our hearts, through Christmas Carols.
3. Let us not only open our hearts to Jesus, but let us open our hearts to one another.
 - The greatest gift you could give to someone is not money, etc., but it is yourself.
 - Have you really given yourself to your children? Or have you tried to substitute yourself with things, expensive gifts under the tree?
4. Let us give ourselves to each other in Christ-like spirit.
5. Let us give ourselves to Jesus Christ.
6. Let us all give the same gifts to each other this year, starting with Jesus Christ, let us give ourselves - Jesus did!