

Sermon Outline

NOBC

12/04/2011

God's Preparations For Christmas The People God Used For the First Christmas

Before time, even before He created the world, God the Son made the amazing decision that He would give up the benefits and glory of His deity in heaven and enter His created world. He would do this to be the sacrificial Savior for men whom He knew would choose to rebel against Him, become sinners and captives of the devil. This presented a great challenge for God the Son.

In order to do this, God the Son would have to become the God/Man by taking upon Himself the same nature of the man whom He created. This could only happen by creating a human body for Himself and being born as a man. This required the availability of a young virgin and her husband-to-be. To fully become a man, God the Son would have to be born in the same way that all men are born. Therefore, though God the Son could control the events of the world, He needed the willing availability and submission of some individuals to accomplish His plans to redeem sinful man.

Because of this, God the Son called upon specific individuals to allow Him to use them. His use of them dramatically affected their lives, and while it caused them to experience great distress and embarrassment, it also enabled them to experience indescribable joy. Thus they allowed their lives to be used to accomplish God's will and purpose. God still needs people who are available for His use. Would you be willing for Him to use you for some great purpose if He desired to do so?

I. ZECHARIAH , ELIZABETH AND JOHN Luke 1:5-80

A. Zechariah Too Old To Have Children, But Faithful Luke 1:5-6

Presiding over the sacrifices of the day , a once-in-a-lifetime experience

B. Elizabeth Too Old To Have Children, But Faithful

Barren with no child, blessed to be used by God Luke 1:24-25,36

C. John The Forerunner

Predetermined to be the Messiah's forerunner to prepare for His coming into the world, he recognized Jesus even while he was still in his mother's womb. Luke 1:13-17, 41, 76-80

II. MARY AND JOSEPH Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

A. Mary Shocked, But Faithful and Willing To Be Used By God

Mary was a young teenage girl and God the Son chose to enter the world through her womb.

B. Joseph Stunned, But Faithful and Willing To Be Used By God

Joseph responded faithfully to provide a home and love for God the Son.

III. GOD'S ANNOUNCERS

A. The Shepherds Luke 2:8-18

Tending to the sacrificial lambs, the shepherds welcomed God's sacrificial lamb Who had come to take away the sins of the world.

B. The Wise Men From The East Matt. 2:1-12

These were faithful gentiles who had studied and believed God's Word to Daniel. They obeyed God rather than Herod who wanted to kill the newly born King. Daniel 9:25-27

IV. GOD'S GREETERS Luke 2:22-38

A. SIMEON

Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die till he had seen the Messiah and he recognized baby Jesus when He was just 40 days old.

B. ANNA

This 84 year-old godly widow also recognized baby Jesus and announced to all in the Temple that He was the Messiah.