

A KING, A CRADLE, AND A CAUSE

Babies are something special

There is just something captivating about a new life.

Let's face it, babies do strange things to us. It's amazing! You can take a perfectly mature adult and put them in front of a baby and they will do very unusual things and become very strange while trying to connect with the child.

Perhaps that is one of the reasons that Christmas affects us the way it does. The cuteness of a new baby.

I think every year every year Christmas poses a question to the world—and to you this morning --- why did Jesus come? Or what is the meaning of Jesus Christ? Or, more personally, what difference should this man make in my life? In my marriage, in my work, in my leisure, in my thinking, in my emotions?

When he was on trial for his life Jesus spoke some words which give an answer to this question. He said in John 18:37, ““You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

The words were spoken at the end of his life, but they are about Christmas. “For this reason I was born ...” For this reason there is Christmas. Christmas exists because Jesus came to bear witness to the truth.

Jesus is the Key Testifier of Truth.

He clearly explains the Purpose of Christmas in His own words.

The King and His Cause

1) He came as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45 “The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Hebrews 2:14,15 puts it like this, “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, **15** and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

2) He came to call sinners to repentance.

Luke 5:31–32, “Jesus said to them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick; I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’ ”

3) He came to give sight to the spiritually blind.

John 12:46, “I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me might not remain in darkness.”

4) He came to divide households over His cause.

Matthew 10:34-36 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man's foes will be those of his own household.”

- a) The point of this word is not that God loves to tear families apart. The point is that strife and division caused by a true allegiance to King Jesus is better than no strife and division with no devotion to Christ.
- b) The reality is, when a person is ransomed and called and given sight, something really radical happens to them. They see everything differently, they think differently, they have a new master!

For this cause, Jesus came into the world. Family tension over Jesus, that too is part of the meaning of Christmas.

5) **He came to give us eternal life.**

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes on him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

- a) Every Christmas we can't help but think about our family members who have died.
- b) My Pastor Larry Stockstill tells a story of a doctor friend of ours who had died on the operating table. She felt her spirit rise to the ceiling of the room and looked down on her lifeless body. While hovering there, she noticed a safety pin covered in dust on top of a tall machine right there in the operating room. She found herself going into a dark cave and Jesus came to her in bright light. *"I'm sending you back,"* He said.

Miraculously, she came back to life on the table. Afterward, she requested that someone go into the O.R. and look on top of that machine. There, to their surprise, was the dust-covered safety pin.