



HOW PRECIOUS IS A CHILD!

Introduction:

- A. This Week -- “Christmas” In Our Country.
 - 1. A time when many think Jesus or “the baby Jesus” was born.
 - 2. That is the traditional, but incorrect, idea.
 - 3. He was likely born in the Spring time.
- B. Today’s Sermon “How Precious Is A Child!”
- C. God Help Us All To Believe That And To See Children As Precious!

I. (Slide #2) How Precious Is A Child!

- A. (►) Gen. 4:1 “Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, ‘I have acquired a man from the LORD.’”
- B. Ps. 127:3 “Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.”
- C. (Slide #3) How Precious IS A Child?
 - 1. (►) A spirit made in the image of God! Gen.1:26,27
 - 2. (►) A bundle of joy (and responsibility) to parents!
 - 3. (►) A child to be loved and guided to Heaven!

D. (Slide #4) “Jesus Loved The Little Children!”

1. Song: “Jesus loves the little children.”
2. He used children to teach the Apostles about humility!
 - a. Mt. 18:1-6 “At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, ‘Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?’ ²Then **Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them,** ³and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore **whoever humbles himself as this little child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. ⁶**But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.**”
 - b. Mk. 9:36,37 “Then He took a little child and set him in the midst of them. And when He had taken him in His arms, He said to them, ³⁷**Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me;** and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me.”
 - c. Lk. 9:47,48 “Then a dispute arose among them as to which of them would be greatest. ⁴⁷And Jesus, perceiving the thought of their heart, took a little child and set him by Him, ⁴⁸and said to them, **Whoever receives this little child in My name receives Me;** and whoever receives Me receives Him who sent Me. For he who is least among you all will be great.”
 - d. He is magnifying the greatness of humility; it is an imperative trait!
 - e. He made one amazing statement: “whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea!”
 1. HOW DARE a disciple mistreat a child!
 2. HOW DARE a disciple destroy the faith of a child!
 3. And HOW DARE any adult disciple to lead a child into sin!!
3. When His disciples saw children as an imposition, He saw them as precious!
 - a. Mt. 19:13-15 “Then little children were brought to Him that He might put *His* hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴But Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.’ ¹⁵And He laid *His* hands on them and departed from there.”
 - b. Jesus quickly cleared up their views; Children ARE PRECIOUS!

E. (Slide #5) Godly Parents And Grandparents Showed Us HOW PRECIOUS A Child Is!

1. (►) The affection and protection of Amram and Jochebed for the baby Moses.
 - a. As the Israelites exploded in population growth, a Pharaoh who did not know Joseph decided to put them under the mighty hand of forced bondage!
 - b. Another attempt -- He would demand that the parents kill all of the male children.
 - c. These godly parents treasured their new baby; they would do NOTHING of the sort; they hid their baby to try and spare his life.
 1. Ex. 2:2 “So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he *was* a beautiful *child*, she hid him three months.”
 2. Heb. 11:23 “
 - d. Interestingly when Pharaoh’s daughter came to wash in the Nile, she found the small “ark” with the baby Moses inside. Ex. 2:5-10
 - e. Observe how touched she was by this small Israelite baby: “And when she had opened *it*, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, ‘This is one of the Hebrews’ children.’” Ex. 2:6
 - f. It is so touching to watch people “ooh” and “aah” over newborn babies! They just have a way of bring out awe and appreciation in people’s hearts!
2. (►) Barren women longed for a child.
 - a. Sarah. Gen. 11:30; 16:b
 - b. Rachel
 1. Gen. 30:1-7 “Now **when Rachel saw that she bore Jacob no children, Rachel envied her sister**, and said to Jacob, ‘Give me children, or else I die!’ ²And Jacob’s anger was aroused against Rachel, and he said, ‘*Am* I in the place of God, who has withheld from you the fruit of the womb?’ ³So she said, ‘**Here is my maid Bilhah**; go in to her, and she will bear *a child* on my knees, that I also may have children by her.’ ⁴Then she gave him Bilhah her maid as wife, and Jacob went in to her. ⁵And Bilhah conceived and bore Jacob a son. ⁶Then Rachel said, ‘God has judged my case; and He has also heard my voice and given me a son.’ Therefore she called his name Dan. ⁷And Rachel’s maid Bilhah conceived again and bore Jacob a second son.”
 2. Later she bore Joseph. Gen. 32:22-24
 3. She died in childbirth with Benjamin. Gen. 35:16-20

- c. Hannah
 - 1. I Sa. 1:10 “And she **was in bitterness of soul**, and prayed to the LORD and **wept in anguish**.”
 - 2. I Sa. 1:11 “Then she made a vow and said, ‘O LORD of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then **I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life**, and no razor shall come upon his head.’”
 - d. Manoah’s wife: Ju. 13:3,5,7,8,24
 - 1. Although she had been barren, God promised her a son.
 - 2. Manoah’s prayer: “O my Lord, please let the Man of God whom You sent come to us again and teach us what we shall do for the child who will be born.” Ju. 13:8
 - 3. Samson was her son.
 - e. Many have adopted children so they could be a mother!
3. (►) Naomi is a precious example of a grandmother! -- Ruth 4:16 “Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.”

F. (Slide #6) And How God Has Blessed Our Families With Precious Babies, Wanted, Loved, And Given Stable, Godly Homes.

- 1. (►) Brantley Baesel
- 2. (Slide #7) Kora Rae Hall
- 3. (Slide #8) Lucy Jo Lewis
- 4. (Slide #9) Zoey Weddle
- 5. (Slide #10) Madalynn Wehr

G. (Slide #11) Oh That People Would Appreciate How Precious Children Are!

- 1. brejfo~ --
 - a. An unborn child:
 - 1. Lk. 1:41 “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the **babe** leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.”
 - 2. Lk. 1:44 “For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the **babe** leaped in my womb for joy.”

3. God knows and views an unborn fetus as PRECIOUS!
 - a. Ps. 139:13-15 “For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well. ¹⁵My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When *as yet there were* none of them.”
 - b. How amazing and insightful!
- b. This world also describes a newborn child:
 1. Lk. 2:12 “And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a **Babe** wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”
 2. Lk. 2:16 “And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the **Babe** lying in a manger.”
 3. Lk. 18:15 “Then they also brought **infants** to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw *it*, they rebuked them.”
 4. Ac. 7:19 “This man dealt treacherously with our people, and oppressed our forefathers, making them expose their babies, so that they might not live.” Pharaoh’s command for the Israelites to kill all their newborn sons!
 5. I Pet. 2:2 “**as newborn babes**, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,”
 6. II Tim. 3:15 “and that from **childhood** you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
2. nhvpio~
 - a. Without the power of speech; not speaking; a little child.
 - b. Mt. 21:16 “and said to Him, ‘Do You hear what these are saying?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes. Have you never read, ‘*Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise*’?”
 - c. “A small child not old enough to speak; a nursing child.”
 - d. Figuratively of immature people spiritually: I Cor. 3:1; Eph. 4:14
3. tevknon
 - a. A child that has been born (the born concept is the main idea).
 - b. It can refer to a boy or girl.
 - c. See Mt. 2:18; Mt. 9:2.
 - d. This word is also used of those who have been born spiritually -- “sons of God.” I Jn. 2:1, 12, 28; 3:7,18; 4:4; 5:21

4. *pai`~*
 - a. A child in relation to descent; a boy or girl in relation to age.
 - b. This word is used to describe Jesus at age 12. Lk. 2:40
 - c. Ac. 20:12 Eutychus is described by this word after he was raised from the dead.

H. All Parents Dream Of What Children Will Become -- Productive Adults Whose Lives Impact Others For Good, Glorify God, And Who Are Prepared For Eternity !

II. (Slide #12) Jesus -- A Precious Baby; A Divine Being!

A. (►) Longed For By The Jewish Nation!

1. (Slide #13) Is. 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
2. Is. 9:6 “For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

B. (►) Precious To Mary, Elisabeth, And Joseph!

1. To Elisabeth:
 - a. Lk. 1:41 “And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.” (Elisabeth was 6 months pregnant with John).
 - b. Lk. 1:44 “For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.”
2. Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit!
 - a. Mt. 1:18 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”
 - b. The angel told Joseph that Mary was impregnated supernaturally! Mt. 1:20
 - c. Joseph was told who this child was to be: “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” Mt. 1:21
 - d. This was a fulfillment of prophecy by Isaiah. Mt. 1:22,23 “So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ²³*‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’* which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

3. **(Slide #14)** Lk. 2:1-7 His birth.
 4. An angel announced to the shepherds in the field: “And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” Lk. 2:12
 - a. They came to Bethlehem.
 - b. Lk. 2:16 “And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.”
 5. The wise men from the east came to pay homage to the baby Jesus. Mt. 2:1-12
 6. **(Slide #15)** Worshiped by the wise men. Mt. 2:1-12
- C. But He Was MORE Than A Child -- He Became EVERYTHING God Meant For Him To Be!
1. Given guidance by an angel of the Lord, Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt to protect him from Herod's evil intentions.
 - a. Mt. 2:13-21 “Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.’ ¹⁴When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, ¹⁵and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, ‘*Out of Egypt I called My Son.*’ ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: ¹⁸‘*A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more.*’ ¹⁹But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, ²⁰saying, ‘Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead.’ ²¹Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.”
 - b. Joseph, guided by an angel saved the young boy Jesus!
 2. **(Slide #16)** At age 12 He was educating the religious leaders of the Jews to correctly understand the Law of Moses! Lk. 2:41-52
 3. **(Slide #17)** At age 30 He was made known by John at the Jordan River at His Baptism.

4. **(Slide #18)** For 3 ½ years He taught mankind how to obey God; He gave His Will - a NEW Covenant for the world and showed mankind how to live! That “Will” or “Testament” would be in effect after He died.
5. **(Slide #19)** He died a horrible death that sinners might have a Savior!
6. **(Slide #20)** He was resurrected -- a Divine affirmations that “THIS IS THE MESSIAH!”

(Slide #21) Conclusion:

- A. HOW PRECIOUS IS THE DIVINE CHILD WHO BECAME OUR PERFECT MESSIAH AND SAVIOR!
- B. May Our Respect Cause Us To Love Him, Respect Him, And Become Like Children -- Those Who Will Humble Ourselves Before And To Him That We Might Thus Be Saved By His Blood And Be With Him Forever!