



**MY CHRISTMAS WISH -- THAT PEOPLE REALLY KNEW WHO JESUS WAS AND IS!**

**Introduction:**

- A. **(Slide #1)** "Merry Christmas!"
  
- B. **(Slide #2)** Question: What Gifts Are You Hoping You Receive For Christmas?
  1. Boys and Girls -- Games? Toys?
  2. Adults -- Clothes? TV? Computer? Car?
  
- C. Traditionally Christmas Is Supposed To Be A Time When People Focus Upon The Birth Of Jesus.
  1. **(Slide #3)** "Joy To The World, The Lord Has Come!"
  2. **(Slide #4)** People say: "Jesus Is The Reason For The Season -- Celebrate His Birth!"
  3. It is ALWAYS good for people to focus upon Jesus.
  4. I am glad that many in the world at least for a few minutes focus upon more than just STUFF!
  
- D. However, My Heart ACHES; I AGONIZE When I See And Hear HOW LITTLE People Really Know About Jesus.
  
- E. **(Slide #5)** My Sermon This Morning: "**MY CHRISTMAS WISH -- THAT PEOPLE REALLY KNEW WHO JESUS WAS AND IS!**"
  
- F. **(Slide #6)** Jesus Has Always Been An Enigma To Mankind!
  1. People in Nazareth said, "Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? <sup>56</sup>And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this *Man* get all these things?" <sup>57</sup>So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, 'A prophet

is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house.” Mt. 13:55-57

2. Oh, such divergent ideas about Him!
  - a. “And there was much complaining among the people concerning Him. Some said, ‘He is good’; others said, ‘No, on the contrary, He deceives the people.’” Jn. 7:12
  - b. Jn. 10:20,21 “And many of them said, ‘He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?’ <sup>21</sup>Others said, ‘These are not the words of one who has a demon. Can a demon open the eyes of the blind?’”
  - c. Mt. 11:18,19 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ <sup>19</sup>The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children.”
  
3. Jesus questioned his disciples about divergent views about Him! Mt. 16:13-17 “When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?’ <sup>14</sup>So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ <sup>15</sup>He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ <sup>17</sup>Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”
  
4. Why are there so many ideas? Why is there so much confusion about Jesus?
  - a. If I can use a verse out of context but present the idea, think about this statement.
  - b. The Sadducees who did not believe in the resurrection ridiculed Jesus with a question about Levirate marriage -- a brother marrying his dead brother’s widow; they gave a hypothetical situation -- she married all 7 brothers; they all died; “Whose wife will she be in eternity?”
  - c. Jesus response provides an answer as well for our discussion today about why there is so much confusion about Him: “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.’” Mt. 22:29
  
- G. A Statement By Jesus Expresses My Christmas Wish To Everyone -- That People Really Knew Who Jesus Was And Is!
  1. Jn. 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
  2. Oh, what a different world it would be and what a different belief system most people would have.
  3. WHY? Because consider what people think about Jesus!

**I. (Slide #7) The Baby Jesus!**

- A. Many Just Talk About Him As “A Babe In The Manger!”
  
- B. That Seems To Be Their Main Focus; They Think About That On December 25.
  
- C. **(Slide #8)** Mary delivered her firstborn Son, THE CHRIST!
  
- D. **(Slide #9)** She Wrapped Him In Swaddling Cloths!
  
- E. **(Slide #10)** She laid Him in a manger. Lk. 2:7
  
- F. **(Slide #11)** The Birth Of The Messiah Was Disclosed To The Shepherds In The Fields! Lk. 2:8-18
  - 1. Shepherds were living in the fields; they were watching their flocks by night in the fields. Lk. 2:8
  
  - 2. This suggests that He was NOT born on Dec. 25; shepherds were typically in the fields with their flocks from March through November.
  
- G. Was He A Baby? Yes AND SO MUCH MORE!

**II. (Slide #12) A Small Boy Under Two Years Of Age!**

- A. **(Slide #13)** You Remember The Wise Men Coming To Worship Him; They Had Seen His Star In The East! Mt. 2:1-12
  
- B. They Asked Herod About The “King Of The Jews.”
  
- C. **(Slide #14)** They Came To The House In Bethlehem And Worshiped Jesus!
  
- D. When He Asked The Time They First Saw The Star, He Determined To Kill All The Boys Under Age 2.

**III. (Slide #15) A Young Boy Returning From Egypt And Residing In Nazareth.**

- A. When Herod Tried To Kill All The Boys In Bethlehem, God Told Joseph To Take Jesus To Egypt. Mt. 2:13-23
  
- B. They Remained In Egypt Until After Herod's Death! 15
  
- C. After Herod Died, An Angel Told Joseph In A Dream To Take His Family And To Return To Israel. 20-23
  
- D. **(Slide #16)** When They Came Back To Israel, Joseph Was Fearful Because He Heard That Herod's 19 Year-Old Son Archelaus, Was Reigning In Judea.
  
- E. Thus, Joseph Took His Family North Of Judea To Nazareth In Galilee To Live.
  
- F. Perhaps Jesus Was Four To Eight Years Old At That Time.

**IV. (Slide #17) A Twelve Year Old!**

- A. When He Was Twelve, Joseph, Mary, And Jesus Went To Jerusalem To Observe The Passover. Luke 2:41-50
  
- B. When Joseph And Mary Left Jerusalem With A Traveling Group Of Friends, They Could Not Find Him At The End Of The Day.
  
- C. **(Slide #18)** On The Third Day They Found Him In The Temple Sitting Among The Teachers Of The Law Of Moses Listening To Them And Asking Them Questions!
  
- D. The Biblical Record Is Silent About His Life From Age Twelve To Thirty Except For The Statement In Luke 2:52.

**V. (Slide #19) A Thirty Year Old Being Baptized!**

- A. Matt. 3:13-17 And Mk. 1:9-11 Tell Us About This Event.
  
- B. The Itinerant Preacher John Was Baptizing People At The Jordan River.

C. (Slide #20) Jesus Came To Be Baptized Of John.

D. (Slide #21) When He Came Out Of The Water Two Amazing Events Occurred!

1. The heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him, and remaining upon Him (Lk. 3:32). Mt. 3:16; Lk. 3:21,22; Lk. 3:32 [John immediately knew that this was the Son of God! Lk. 3:32-34 “<sup>32</sup>And John bore witness, saying, ‘I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. <sup>33</sup>I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.’”
2. The Father declared from Heaven: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Mt. 3:17; Lk. 3:22

## VI. (Slide #22) Who Is Jesus? Attacks Against Jesus:

A. (►) Attacks -- Unbelievers Make Ridiculous And Vile Claims.

B. Examples:

1. (►) The First-Created Being
2. (►) An Angel
3. (►) God The Father
4. (►) A Good Man
5. (►) A Phony Messiah
6. (►) A Prophet
7. (►) Love

C. This Same Unbelief Was Seen When Jesus Was Here On Earth!

1. Jn. 10:31-33 “Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. <sup>32</sup>Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?’ <sup>33</sup>The Jews answered Him, saying, ‘For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.’”

2. Jn. 12:37 “But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him,”
3. Jn. 1:11 “He came to His own [“things” -- what He had created], and His own [“people” -- the Jews] did not receive Him.”
4. Jn. 7:5 “For even His brothers did not believe in Him.”

**VII.(Slide #23) What I Want People To Know About Jesus: Who Was This Baby That Was Born?**

**A. (Slide #24) Yes, He Was A Baby -- But What Was He Really? A Divine Being Living In Flesh!**

1. Jn. 1:1,2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.”
2. Emmanuel -- “GOD WITH us!”
  - a. This is SUCH an important word.
  - b. It was prophesied in Is. 7:14 and declared to Joseph in Mt. 1:23.
  - c. “Immanuel” -- “God with us!”
  - d. This word tells us who He is -- A Divine Being!
3. Jn. 10:30 “I and *My* Father are one.”
4. Eternal: Jn. 8:58,59 “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’ <sup>59</sup>Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.”
5. A Divine Being Living In Flesh!
  - a. I Tim. 2:5 “For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus,”
  - b. 100% God and 100% man -- HOW CAN IT BE?
    1. 100% God -- a Divine Being
      - a. A member of the Godhead
      - b. One who forgave sins
      - c. One who rightfully accepted worship!
    2. 100% Human -- HOW CAN IT BE?
      - a. What is a human?
      - b. A spirit residing in a fleshly body.
      - c. What was Jesus? A spirt (albeit a Divine Spirit) residing in a body!

- c. From this point He was called “The Son of God!” Lk. 1:35
  - 1. He was never called “the Son of God” in eternity or in the Old Testament!
  - 2. He was only called the “Son of God” after the Holy Spirit caused the conception by Mary.
  - 3. The “Only Begotten Son Of God!”
    - a. Every other man born in the world was a “son of man.”
    - b. God had promised Satan in the Garden of Eden that the “Seed of woman” would “bruise his head.” Gen. 3:15.
    - c. He is THE UNIQUE ONE -- the ONLY one whose conception was brought about by the power of the Holy Spirit.
  
- B. (▶) The O.T. Promised Messiah!
  - 1. Meaning of “Messiah” -- “The Old Testament Anointed One!” -- The Prophesied Deliverer!”
  
  - 2. The One that the prophecies foretold!
  
- C. (▶) The Source Of Knowledge About The Godhead And Their Will!
  - 1. Jn. 14:9 “Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”
  
  - 2. I Jn. 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.”
  
- D. (▶) The Savior!
  - 1. “Jesus” -- Savior!
  
  - 2. Mt. 1:21 “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”
  
  - 3. I Jn. 3:16 “By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.”
  
- E. (▶) A Miracle Worker!
  - 1. His miracles manifested who He was!
    - a. Ac. 2:22 “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know--”
    - b. Jn. 20:30,31 “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

- c. Jn. 21: “And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”
  - 2. Think about His miracles -- healing the sick, enabling the lame to walk and the blind to see, having power over nature (calming storms on the sea; walking on water), casting out demons, and raising the dead!
- F. (▶) The Source Of Spiritual Life And Preparation For Eternal Life In Heaven!
- 1. Jn. 5:39,40 “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. <sup>40</sup>But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”
  - 2. Jn. 5:24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”
- G. (▶) Loving Shepherd Of His Faithful Fold!
- 1. Jn. 10:11 “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.”
  - 2. Jn. 10:14 “I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own.”
- H. (▶) Eternal Judge:
- 1. Jn. 12:48 “He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”
  - 2. II Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

### **VIII. (Slide #25) Yes, My Christmas Wish -- That People REALLY Know Who Jesus Was And Is! Why?**

- A. Without Knowing That He Is Divine, Man Is Lost!
- 1. Jn. 8:24 “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins.”
  - 2. This is a HUGE truth!



- B. He Is The Way To Heaven! Jn. 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”
  
- C. The One We Need To Know And To Whom We Must Commit Our Hearts, Lives, And Eternity!
  - 1. Mt. 7:21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”
  
  - 2. Phil. 3:8 “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”
  
- D. **(Slide #26)** The Message Of The Awesome Event Of His Birth: “Joy To The World, The Lord Has Come!” Will You Let Him Be Your Lord?