



GULF SHORES CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday Evening Sermon by Ray Reynolds
December 10, 2017

The Christmas Nativity

Introduction: It is Christmas time! I want to share spiritual lessons we can learn through the Christmas season. I want us to see how everything connects back to the gospel story. Each of us have opportunities to talk about Christ during this holiday season and God has given us many visual reminders of His saving work. Jesus did a marvelous job teaching object lessons throughout His ministry. We need to learn from Him. Our text for today will be **Isaiah 7:14**. In this lesson we will discuss the Christmas nativity. Let's think about who Jesus really was and why He came to earth. What did people think about Him? How did that compare to what we think of Him now? Isaiah spoke prophetically about Jesus and what Matthew reveals in **Matthew 1:18-25**. An old hymn asks, "Who is He in yonder stall at whose feet the shepherds fall?" That question and its answer are critical. When we see a Christmas nativity, we should obviously think about Jesus. What does it tell us? Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. *The Story of the Virgin Birth (Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:34)*

- Matthew states that Mary and Joseph were betrothed, not married.
- Without His deity there is no explanation for the virgin conception and birth.

II. *The Specifics of the Angel's Words (Matthew 1:19-20, Luke 2:8-15)*

- On learning of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph was discouraged.
- The angels revealed that the child was/is God Himself.

III. *The Significance of the Mission (Matthew 1:21, Isaiah 43:11)*

- The name *Jesus* means "God saves."
- Jesus' name and mission reveal His deity.

IV. *The Synopsis of the Prophecy (Matthew 1:22-23, Isaiah 7:14)*

- God's promise was that the virgin would bear a son.
- He was/is a sign God will deliver His people.

V. *The Sincerity of the Parents (Matthew 1:24-25, Luke 1:46-55)*

- Joseph's faith embraced Jesus' deity.
- His faith was fueled by the fact that this was no ordinary conception.

Conclusion: How should we respond to the Christmas story? Just as Joseph did. In this day of political correctness where Jesus is not to be mentioned, let alone declared to be God, we are ready to declare our Savior's name. Who is that in yonder stall? He is Jesus, Immanuel, God with Us. Our God is in yonder stall. How can we share the gospel story during Christmas? Will you share spiritual lessons you have learned? Are you seeking the truth? Have you received salvation through Jesus?