

Facebook Live
Preparing Our Hearts for Christmas
Lesson 3 – December 18, 2019

Why Was Jesus Born?
(Taken from John McArthur's Sermon)

Hebrews 2:9, 14 – 18: But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—
¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. ¹⁷ For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

On that first Christmas Eve there was a farewell going on in heaven. The Son said goodbye to the Father, and the conversation that the Son had with the Father, at least a part of it, is recorded in the 10th chapter of Hebrews. Jesus is speaking to the Father and this is what He said that first Christmas Eve:

Hebrews 10:5 - 7: Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:
“Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;
⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said,
‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will,
my God.’”

Jesus Christ bid farewell to His Father and began a journey that was to end thirty-three years later on a cross, and then through a resurrection, to be glorified and exalted and restored back into heaven to the glory that He knew before He came.

And every Christmastime we all stop and rather mindlessly acknowledge the birth of Christ; and so many people never bother to find out why He came.

1. First, He came to be our substitute - verse 9

God either punishes you for your sin and me for my sin—eternal punishment. Or he substitutes someone else who pays the penalty we owe. That's what Jesus came to do.

Jesus Christ is better than angels by His very nature; He's God. "But for a little while" He became lower than angels.

Jesus came to this earth to do something that angels can't do. Jesus came to die. It had to be someone who was totally man to pay man's penalty, and totally God to have victory over death.

Jesus did not come because you and I asked for Him or deserved Him, but because God graciously designed it. Salvation comes from God. Christ is your substitute, and He came only on the basis of the grace of God; we did nothing to deserve it.

The cross was a masterpiece. He brought mercy and justice together at the cross. Christ paid the penalty, bore an eternity of judgment in three hours, and yet He was not destroyed.

2. Second, Jesus came to destroy the devil - Verse 14

Satan knows that the wages of sin is death. And if he can keep us living in sin until we die, he's got us forever. Satan's great power is death, and somebody had to destroy that power, and it had to be a man. Some man had to conquer death, destroy Satan's weapon; and that's exactly what Jesus did. In order to destroy death, a man would have to die and rise again and leave the trail open for others to die and rise again; and that's exactly what Jesus did.

Jesus became a man to die as a man, and have a man's victory over the grave. But He had to be God at the same time to have that victory.

(cont'd)

3. Jesus came to be our sympathetic high priest – verse 16

Jesus was like we are in every way so “that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. And for in that He Himself hath suffered being tempted, He’s able to help them that are tempted.” In other words, when you go to Jesus Christ to share your heart He can say, “I know, I know; I’ve been there.” Sympathetic high priest.

In all things, He was like we are. He was like us in all things except for sin and sickness. Totally by experience He understood God. Totally by experience He understood man. He was the perfect one to bring the two together, perfect sympathizer.

Hebrews 4:15-16: “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”

Take another look at the manger.

Who art Thou, precious little babe, nestled in the hay?

God I am, come to earth this day.

Why didst Thou come, sweet little babe, nestled in the hay?

To die I came, the price of sin to pay.

Whose sin, tender little babe, nestled in the hay?

Yours it was, that brought Me down today.

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