

Jesus Bible Study Series

Lesson #2 (Chapter Three)

Deity in Diapers

HMR
Men's Bible Study

Main Idea

According to Philippians 2, Jesus *made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness*. It is in this context that we see Jesus' arrival to a religious world preoccupied with itself and not looking for the Messiah, not unlike today.

Deep Thoughts

As Believers the greatest threat that exists to our Christ-filled lives is losing the awe of God's Magnificence. Somehow when we first come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, we are gripped with the realization of how close we exist to being separated from God for eternity. The reasons for our "wandering distractions" are plenty – goals, careers, health, money, personal disappointments, and selfishness to name a few. Somehow Jesus managed to not fall prey to the snare that entangles so many of us. Perhaps the key for restoring our awe of God resides in going back to Bethlehem. Against staggering statistical odds, Jesus came as the long-awaited Messiah. As we so often see, God's ways are not our ways (cf. Isaiah 55:8). Instead of having Jesus arrive with great anticipation, He came into the world in a manner certainly unbecoming of a King.

As we all know Jesus' arrival was intentional and planned from the beginning of time. God brought Jesus into the world to show mankind that greatness is not achieved through intellect, power, or might; but rather, greatness in the eyes of God is achieved through humility and trust. As with Jesus, God will glorify His name through our lives at the appropriate time. Our greatest responsibility as God's chosen people is to show the world Jesus by living lives worthy of His name. In this series we continue our focus on *abiding in Christ by understanding who He was, who He is, and who He calls us to be.*

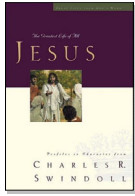
Supporting Scriptures

Read the following Scripture passages and consider God's plan for man through Christ (past and present).

- Luke 2:1-20
- Daniel 9:20-27
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Philippians 2:1-11

Questions for Consideration

1. One of the most powerful aspects of Jesus' fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies concerns the statistical likelihood that one man could have fulfilled all of the provided prophecies. Consider the statistics below.
 - a. How many Old Testament prophecies were made concerning the Messiah? **456**
 - b. What is the statistical likelihood that Jesus could have been born in Bethlehem? **1:300,000**
 - c. What is the statistical likelihood that one man could fulfill 8 prophecies? **1:10¹⁷ (a statistical impossibility)**
 - d. What is the statistical likelihood that one man could fulfill 48 prophecies? **1:10¹⁵¹**
 - e. What is the statistical likelihood that one man could fulfill 456 prophecies? _____
2. In reading the 1 Corinthians passage, God seems to tear at the very fabric of our civilization that is so focused on building itself up. Consider specifically what we read in verse 27: *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise...* In our lives, what happens when we stop pursuing the wisdom and things of the world and focus on pursuing the wisdom of Christ?
3. Read the text on page 36 about the concept of *kenosis* and Jesus' willingness to lay aside His power as God. What does His willingness to do this say about Him and how should we live our lives in recognition of this?



Jesus Bible Study Series

Lesson #2 (Chapter Four) *Responding to the Redeemer*

HMR
Men's Bible Study

Main Idea

While the entire focus of the Gospels is about Christ, we also observe the critical role that others played in the life of Christ – those impacting His life of being impacted by Him. Christianity is meant to be lived in a manner where we make a difference in the world by simply living for Christ.

Deep Thoughts

In many regards the events of our current time are not unlike the events that surrounded the first coming of Christ. As with the Roman occupation, our world is certainly not under “ideal management” and it seems to get worse every day. The unthinkable in terms of man’s thoughts and actions become increasingly real, right before our eyes and ears. As another point of reference, we are also anticipating the long-awaited arrival of our Messiah. From a prophetic standpoint we have waited even longer than did Simeon and Anna (approximately 2,000 years versus Isaiah’s prophecies in 740 B.C.). I wonder how many of us have the single-minded conviction in waiting on Christ that we observe in the lives of Simeon and Anna. How many of us think about Christ’s return daily, but more importantly how many of us live our lives in a manner recognizing that He could return at any moment? The reason that we know neither the date nor the hour of His return is to ensure that we live in daily anticipation of His coming. In this series we continue our focus on *abiding in Christ by understanding who He was, who He is, and who He calls us to be.*

Supporting Scriptures

Read the following Scripture passages and consider how even Jesus’ birth impacted the lives of others.

- Luke 2:21-40
- Matthew 2:1-18, 19-23
- Luke 2:41-52

Questions for Consideration

1. In looking at the map on Page 2, what do the travels of Joseph and Mary tell us about their trust in God?
2. In the New Testament we read very little about Jesus’ formative years, but one point is clear: Jesus developed in a manner not so different from us (Luke 2:52, page 51 in our book). In what ways is Christ an example for us in terms of how He matured into a man? Consider all aspects of your life: physical, mental, and spiritual.
3. How has Jesus changed your life (and perhaps how is He currently changing your life)? How does Jesus have the power and ability to change mankind in a way we see in no other?
4. Read “The Meaning of Life” section on pages 55 through 58, including the Psalm 139 passage. In reading this passage what takeaways do you have in terms of hope and direction we should have as followers of Jesus?

Take-away Points

If an outsider was to look at the focus of your life, what would they see? If they were to look at your bank account and your calendar, what would they see? If they saw you in a frustrating situation and how you responded, what would they see? When we live for Jesus, it is interesting how open we are in allowing others to see “what’s under the hood” in our own lives, as opposed to the defensive posture we often take when we are not living for Him.

At our next meeting (Tuesday, February 4th) we’ll cover Chapters 5 and 6 of our book.

