

The Son Has Come

Luke 1:26-35

We inhabit a very different world from that of the nativity story, so what is its relevance to us?

Son of Mary, Son of God.

What is the big deal with a baby born in poverty in 1st century Judea? The story line of the Bible is that this baby boy was not just Mary's son, but also God's son. God didn't just create the baby, He was the baby.

This matters for at least two reasons. Firstly, it tells us that the God of the Bible is not a god who stands aloof from the world. He knows what it is to be human, to be you. Secondly, not only is God not out of touch, neither is He out of reach. Every other religion says we have to build a ladder to God to save ourselves. Christianity alone tells us that God has come down to rescue us.

Son of David

The angel said Jesus was the Son of David – the heir to the throne of Israel's greatest king. Because we like our individualism and autonomy, talk of a king who has dominion over us is unwelcome. But it shouldn't be. Firstly, if this King is God eternal, He is the very one we should yield to. Secondly, His kingdom will never end. Unlike every other ruler, king or politician, He will not let you down. He will not use you, rather His rule is for your eternal good.

That we might become sons

The message of the Bible is that we are more lost than we could imagine, and more loved by God than we could ever hope. To describe our situation it uses the picture of us being slaves. We may not like that, but when we consider the ways we can be enslaved we realize it might not be so far from the truth after all.

The message of Advent is that Jesus came to deliver us from this slavery. He lived the life you and I fail to live, and He died the death you and I deserve to die.

But having delivered us from slavery, God does not leave us in a kind of no-man's land. Instead He adopts us as His sons. As a Roman would adopt a man and make him his heir, so God adopts us and makes us joint heirs with Christ. So Jesus became poor that you might become rich. The first down payment of that inheritance is the Holy Spirit. He gives us new life, and tells us we are God's children.

So, the birth of a son in poverty two thousand years ago matters to you because His poverty was your riches. As you put your trust in Jesus, you can know that you too are a son, and God is your Father.