

A Baby Changes Everything! ¹
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church
Pastor H. Powell Dew, Jr.
December 15, 2024

Text: Luke 2:8-14

Purpose: God so loved us, that He sent a Baby to change everything! Because of the Birth of Jesus Christ, all of history is forever changed. Because of the birth of the Babe of Bethlehem, all our hope and future rest fully in Him. Trust Him today, receive Him as Lord. After all, a baby changes everything!

It was four years, two months, and sixteen days after Jo Anne and I were married when Amber Nichole Dew arrived on the scene. She was wide eyed, and ready to confront the world. I remember her eyes looking back at me the moment she was born and I thought to myself, she has finally to meet the face she has been listening to over the past nine months. And she didn't scream or cry when she saw me!



I remember those days prior to November 18, 1988. When we first got married in September 1984, Jo Anne and I moved into a two bedroom apartment off Lake Wheeler Road in Raleigh and we made it our own special place. I was working with my father renovating houses and Jo Anne was working with several companies through a temporary company and life was good. We both would get together for lunch each day and we enjoyed our quiet nights and weekends.

Notes:

¹ Outline from sermon preached at Campbell University Divinity School on Nov. 29, 2011 by Dr. Michael Cogdill

When we had some extra money, we could leave Raleigh on Friday night and be down at the beach that evening and spend the next day shopping or collecting sea shells.



Every year we would head back up to Mars Hill College where we met and take in the mountain air and relive those college days. We had no one to be responsible to except ourselves and our work responsibilities. Life was great.



Later we moved from Raleigh, feeling the Lord's leading and began working at Kennedy Home Children's Home in Kinston. We loved being with those children but we knew we wanted our own. We would work in the cottage about 4 days a week and would have three days all to ourselves. It was



wonderful. We could travel; we could go where we wanted. I was driving a 1984 Toyota Pickup and Jo Anne was driving a 1978 orange Chevy Nova. They weren't the latest vehicles but they worked well for us.

What we learned in November 1988, was that our world was about to change very quickly. We learned, as many of those gathered here in this room has learned – **A Baby Changes Everything!**



Before we knew it, we had traded in our old car and purchased a 1987 Astro Minivan. We noticed the crib in the corner was now beginning to be joined by untold

numbers of toys and baby accessories. We needed diapers, and baby bottles, and special brushes and special pots to boil those bottles. I never will forget the day I came home to a house filled with smoke from a whole batch of melted baby bottles when the water boiled out quicker than expected.



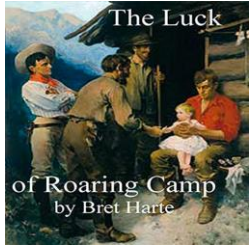
We needed a high chair, and baby bibs, amusement toys, and baby bouncers. We discovered that section of the grocery store which we had never gone down – the baby food aisle. We now were looking at the latest gadgets and listening to all the music that goes with infant children.

I believe I listened to the music, "Sleep Sound in Jesus" at least twice each night for two or three years! I could recite all the Barney songs and sing just as good as the purple dinosaur could.

Those days of spontaneously going to the mountains or to the beach on a whim were now a thing of the past. You would not believe how much stuff you have to carry with you if you travel anywhere with an infant! You need a stroller, a car seat, a folding crib, two diaper bags – one for diapers and another for food, not to mention the blankets and clothes and toys you "have to have" just to make it through one day away.

It is mind numbing once you wake up from the assault of having children suddenly thrust at you how much things change. **A Baby Changes Everything!**

The Story of the Luck of Roaring Camp



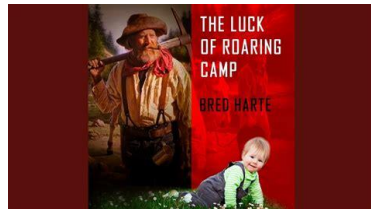
There is a short story told of a mining camp in 1868. The short story is called, “The Luck of Roaring Camp.” The mining camp was made up of rough and tumble men that came to seek out their fortunes in the wild, wild, west. This town had the unique distinction of having only one woman of questionable reputation living among a group of reprobate backwards living men.

It was discovered that the woman was now pregnant and this caused quite a stir among the men in the camp. When it came time for the mother to give birth, as many women experienced in those days, she died while giving birth to a brand new health baby boy. What were the men supposed to do?

I think they began to realize **“This baby was going to change everything!”**

They decided they would hold a meeting and develop a plan. They decided that this child was a gift to the town and they would do whatever it takes to make this child safe and welcome into the world. They realized without growth, the town would die and they saw this as “Luck” smiling upon them. So they named the boy Luck. You need to remember this was a group of men that lived in a rundown town where trouble happened all the time.

They decided they would make some rules and everyone was to agree on them and live by them. First, they decided they would wash their hands if they were going to be at or near



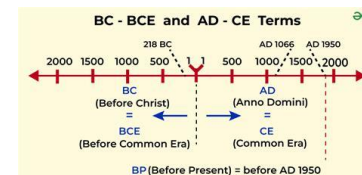
the baby. They didn’t want the baby to get sick with germs. They would take turns looking after the child. Second they decided that no profanity would be used around the child. They wanted this child to be better than they were. They even went so far as to agree to eliminate gambling near the child.



Over time, they decided to paint the building where the child was kept. They got busy and painted and repaired the next building. Before they knew it, one by one, the buildings began to take on a life and the town began to flow with life.

As you can see, **“A Baby Changes Everything.”**

What a wonderful way to capture the spirit of the season we find ourselves in. God has sent us His Son into the world so that in Him we may have life and have it more abundantly. The baby Jesus has come to us and boy has it changed everything.



The coming of Jesus has caused us to divide history based upon His birth in Bethlehem so many years ago. Our calendar is divided into AD (anno domini – which is Latin for “Year of the Lord”) and BC (stands for “Before Christ”). Many today are trying to shift our calendar to BCE (Before the Common Era) and CE (Common Era). Either way you look at it, the Birth of Jesus is the hinge of history upon which the door of time swings.

This demonstrates to us that God is not aloof. God promised so very long ago that One from the line and lineage of David would come and Jesus came. We can clearly see this baby born in Bethlehem changed everything.

Paul said to the Philippians (2:6-11),

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

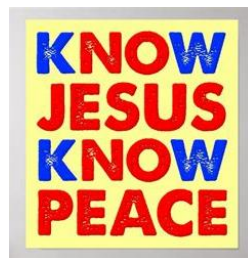


And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Have you ever thought about what life would be like if Jesus had never come?

- There would be no churches like this one we are sitting in today.
- There would be no salvation for our sin.



- There would be no hope of resurrection of the dead and eternal life with God.
- There would be no schools teaching ministers to minister to the spiritual needs of people.
- There would be no hospitals founded upon the teachings of Jesus to go and minister to the physical needs of individuals.
- There would be no charity organizations answering the call to go to the least of these in our world that are hungry, thirst, sick, infirm, or in prison.
- There would be no Word that became flesh and dwelt among us that has given us an example after which we can pattern our lives.



That sweet, lowly, infant child born in Bethlehem so very long ago – ***changed everything!***

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:16-17)

That baby born so long ago changed everything!

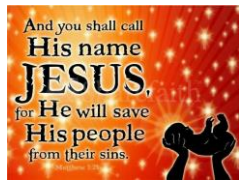
“A Wonderful Savior is Jesus my Lord, a wonderful Savior to me. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, where rivers of pleasure I see. He hideth my soul in the cleft of the rock, that shadows a dry thirsty land; He hideth my life in the depths of His love, and covers me there with His hand.



“Joy to the world! The Lord is
come; Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and sing, and Heaven
and heaven and nature sing!

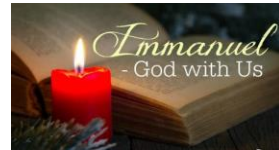


We can sing because a baby has been born!
We can sing because a Savior has come!
We can sing because God so loved us that He sent His one
and only son to us!



Jesus – which means, “He will save His people from their sins.”

Emmanuel – which means, “God with us.”



We all are sin damaged.
We are all impacted by sin.
We cannot save ourselves!
Try as we might, we cannot resist temptation when it comes. We need a Savior.

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.” (Colossians 1:17-18)

“For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:9-10)

It is because of this baby born in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago, I am forever changed. I now experience salvation for my soul and redemption for my body when I die. Words cannot express how much my life has changed because of Jesus.

Count your blessings name them one by one,
Count your blessings see what God has done.
Count your blessings name them one by one.

Count your many blessings and see what God has done!”

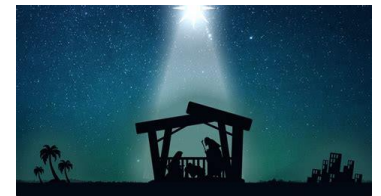


The invitation to receive the message of this infant child is extended to all. The scripture declares *“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering towards us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)*

The gospel message does not start up – “Once upon a time...”

It goes like this:

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called



Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:1-7)



The Baby that was from above came with two natures. Man cannot take credit for the birth of this child. This child was conceived by supernatural means. Jesus was fully God and the

fullness of the Godhead dwelt bodily in Him. Yet Jesus was born just as any other baby. Fully divine, fully human – the two natures in One.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,



I have been blessed to be called to preach and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I have been even greater blessed to be able to receive the message of salvation offered by the Babe of Bethlehem.

I was looking back this week over the various Christmas sermons I have preached. I realized I have preached 24 Christmas seasons – 8 of which have been here at Spilman. This picture is from Christmas 2017.

My How a Baby changes everything!

The angels gave Him the name Jesus because He would save His people from their sins. He was given the name Emmanuel because He was God with us.



Throughout the centuries, He had received the name: Master, Redeemer, Savior of the World, Wonderful, Counselor, Bright Morning Star, Lilly of the Valley, Provider and Friend.

He has been called: Jehovah, Messiah, Mighty God and King, Bread of Life, Light in darkness, Door of Heaven, Fountain of Living Water, the Lamb of God and Prince of Peace.

The question for you today is, “Do you call Him Lord?”



Have you examined your heart carefully to see if that sin debt has been taken care of at the cross of Calvary? Only you can know the joy of forgiveness when you surrender your heart and life to the one I call Lord – Jesus! The Babe of Bethlehem!

“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-10)

WOW – A Baby Sure Does Change Everything!

Has He changed you?

LET US PRAY