

# I Saw...The Son of God

12.24.17

Christmas Series

Luke 1:28–38 (NIV)

<sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

## 1. We are born with a capacity for wonder and amazement.

A. At every stage of life, there is something new for us to be amazed at:

1. Watch the eyes of an alert baby, looking around and taking everything in.
2. Or a toddler who asks "why" a million times, wondering and amazed by simple things adults take for granted.
3. OR a child who can watch the same princess movie a MILLION times.
3. Or a teen driving for the first time.

4. Or Newlyweds who are in amazement and wonder that their new mate doesn't wake up with perfect hair and has newfound annoying habits.

5. And adults who see the ocean or mountains for the first time, or hold their first child.

6. OR seniors who look on in wonder and amazement at their grandkids and wonder why they didn't have them first.

B. The Christmas season calls out to our God-given sense of wonder and amazement.

1. The world has taken advantage of this:

a. Think of all of the fantasy parts of Christmas that have become part of our culture!

b. A supernatural Santa-Claus and his reindeer who fly and elves who make toys.

c. Talking snowmen and Grinches.

2. Yet the original Christmas story is greater and more miraculous than anything Disney has done.

a. Nothing calls out to our sense of wonder and amazement like a virgin giving birth.

b. Children may not understand the significance of this, but adults do.

c. Things like this don't happen in the natural.

d. God is not limited by time, space, or nature because He created all of these things.

This is why we must believe in the miraculous birth of Jesus.

## 2. The Birth of Jesus was miraculous.

A. There are many theories out there that try to deny the immaculate conception of Jesus.

1. One believes that Mary and a Roman soldier had a love affair.

2. She became pregnant out of wedlock and the Church later made up a legend about Jesus' miraculous birth to hide this.
3. Legends like this are why you don't want to get your theology from the History Channel or PBS.
4. But this "legend" is also found in the Jewish Talmud (oral traditions and teachings) and in the Qur'an.
5. Why?

B. Because, if the miraculous conception and birth of Jesus are true, then we must accept His claim to being the Son of God!

1. Did the Jewish leaders of the first two centuries want people to believe in Jesus as the Son of God? No.
2. Does the Qur'an want people to accept Jesus as the True Prophet instead of Muhammed? NO.
3. Do the History Channel and other secular groups want us to place our hope in Jesus as the ruler of the Universe? No.
4. The birth of Jesus as the Son of God threatens every other thing that desires to be god in our lives.

### 3. The Theological Reason Jesus was born of a virgin.

A. **Jesus had to be born of a virgin in order to be born free of sin.**

1. Because of Adam and Eve, we are all born with a sinful nature.
  - a. You didn't have to teach your kids to lie, but you have to teach them not to lie.
  - b. You don't have to teach your kids to rebel, (if you don't believe me then tell them no!)
  - c. That is because we are born with a sinful nature.
2. If Jesus was born as the result of a union between Mary and Joseph or Mary and a Roman soldier, then Jesus would not have been born sinless.

a. And if Jesus was not sinless, then he could not have died for our sins.

b. And if Jesus' death did not pay the price for our sins, then we all are still lost.

B. This importance is why Luke is very careful with how he describes Jesus' beginnings.

**1.** First, Mary becomes pregnant on God's initiative.

a. Mary didn't say, "I want a baby".

b. Instead, an Angel declares the Will and purpose of God to her.

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c. This was God's idea, not Mary's.

**2.** Second, Mary accepted God's plan by faith.

Luke 1:38 (NIV)

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

a. Why does Luke stress this?

1. One reason is that Luke's day had legends of gods "sleeping" with women to have their babies.

2. Another reason is that Mary lived in a day and age where rape of women was common and accepted.

3. Women had no rights, and they had no say.

3. But God refused to cross that line.

b. In fact, there is nothing sexual about the Christmas story.

1. Instead, the Word of God, through the Holy Spirit, fulfilled God's purpose.

2. "For no word from God will ever fail" (Vs 37).

3. God did what man cannot: He spoke life into existence.

4. He did this in Genesis 1 and he does this again in Luke 1.

c. Just as Mary became pregnant with the Son of God by faith, we too receive all of God's blessings by faith.

#### 4. Christians are called to see Jesus through eyes of faith.

A. Mary was told by an Angel to see her first child through eyes of faith.

1. He wasn't the son of Joseph, but the Son of God.

2. He wasn't destined to be a carpenter, or a school teacher, or a doctor but to be the Savior of the World.

3. He wasn't destined to die of old age, but to die at the peak of human life so other's might live for eternity.

4. Mary's task as the mother of Jesus was to see this child through eyes of faith.

B. You and I are called to do the same thing.

1. He wasn't merely a teacher, but the Bringer of Truth.

2. He isn't just a way of life, but the Only way to experience life.

3. When you and I accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, we put on eyes of faith and choose to follow him.

C. There are certain things about Christianity that we must accept as true, even though we may not see it.

1. The Bible says that "all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved". This is accepted by faith.

2. Jesus says that He will never leave nor abandon you. You accept this truth by faith.

3. Jesus said that He is preparing a future home for us and that He is returning soon. We accept this by faith.

D. When Mary and Joseph looked at Jesus, they saw the Son of God by faith.

1. And so did the Shepherds, Simeon, and the Magi.

2. For some of us here today, we need to reclaim eyes of faith.

3. We need to look at Jesus:

a. Not as a baby, but as the Son of God in flesh.

b. As the victorious King, not a dead man on a cross.

c. How you see Jesus determines the extent you trust him.

## 5. Today, I challenge you to see Jesus as the Son of God.

A. Anything less than this will lead to disappointment.

1. Jesus existed before the creation of the world.

2. He was born of a virgin,

3. Lived a sinless life,

4. Died a cruel and undeserving death,

5. And he was raised to life on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

6. Jesus is the Son of God.

B. When you put the Son of God first in your life, everything in your life changes.

1. The One who can forgive sins and change lives is no longer a baby but the full-grown Son of God.

2. This morning, some of need a change.

3. This morning if you:

a. Have need of healing, would you ask the Son of God to heal you.

b. If you have need of wisdom or provision, will you ask Jesus the Son of God to make a way?

c. If you need forgiveness, or to forgive someone, will you ask the Son of God to pour out forgiveness upon you and change your life and the life of those around you?