



and that's... **The Gospel Truth!!** with Pat Corn

a brief message of encouragement to make your day just a little bit brighter

I would bet that if I asked you to close your eyes and picture, in your mind's eye, the scene of the birth of Christ, the resulting vision would be suitable for a Hallmark card. It would probably be pretty little pastel depiction with a glittery star flanked by a couple of pretty little blonde angels, and little lean-to stable with some woolly little lambs standing nearby with their shepherds looking toward the center of the scene. There might be a cow or camel to complete the menagerie. Mary and Joseph would be centered properly, looking at a little manger filled with fresh, bright yellow hay and a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes. There would be three wise men standing behind to the right dressed in elaborate royal robes looking down at the baby in the manger.

Pretty huh? So sweet, on that "silent night", huh? But what's wrong with that picture? Quite honestly, EVERYTHING!! What is really missing is the reality of the scene. What is missing is the humanity of the event. The King of Kings was born in the most humble of circumstances. There was no little lean-to freshly constructed from brand new two-by-fours. It was, at best, a cave-like dwelling filled with the stench of animals and their feces that permeated the filthy straw that covered a dirt-packed floor. Hey, let's get it right. The "manger" was a feeding trough for cattle and probably large enough to accommodate more than one animal and probably wasn't freshly constructed from materials from the closest Home Depot.

Folks, the birth of a child had just taken place. That dispels the idea of a "silent night". There were the pains, and groans of bringing a child into this world. Sure, the conception occurred without the sounds of passion but the birth.....now that's a different story. Mary was completely involved. She gave birth just like any other woman in addition to the fact that she had never had any sexual experience creating another level of difficulty in the birthing process. Pain, tears, blood, afterbirth, the whole gamut of the ordeal of bearing a child was right there in the reality of the event. Who helped with the birth? Who cleared the mucous from His throat? Who spanked his bottom to begin His breathing the breaths of life? How tired and sore could Mary have been after traveling so far adding to the discomfort and difficulty of the birth? It takes a lot of muscles to stay the back of an animal so long. Her back had to be killing her by the time they arrived in Bethlehem.

There were no "wise men" at the scene that night. They showed up much later on. The star was most likely a divine occurrence that led specific individuals to the Christ child. Was it seen by everyone? The shepherds that came were a smelly lot from the handling the sheep and getting lanolin-like excretions that were produced by the sheep wool on their garments.

Yes, the conception might have been immaculate but the birth was anything but immaculate. Why? Because, the entire life of this newborn, was purposely wrapped in the HUMANITY of this world.

We are so quick to accept the DIVINITY of Christ but so hesitant to accept his HUMANITY. In order for God's plan, that was centuries before prophesied, to be fulfilled, this Christ has to be brought into this world completely human. The entire experience has to be "normal". He was "Emmanuel", which means "God with us" but in order for His plan to be fulfilled, this child, Jesus, had to be "normal" in order to infiltrate this world and one day save it. On this night, God's plan came to pass through Mary. Sure, He was here for a divine purpose, but on this night He was simply Mary's baby boy. The "son" of a carpenter named Joseph.

He would learn to walk and to talk a language that He created. This kid would be like all the other kids in the neighborhood. He would play on the dusty streets with the other kids. He would watch his mother as she ground the grain to make bread and then smell the aroma of the freshly baked product. Watch her wash the clothing in the water of the stream while He skipped rocks across it.

He would learn the carpenter trade from his father, Joseph. Learn how to carve and create things out of the very woods He created. Learn how to bore a hole and fire a nail. He would learn how to hunt and dress the animals that He had originally created.

Jesus learned and experienced the human existence. It was essential that He grow up and experience the life that every other person must experience. That was God's plan even to His death on that cross at Calvary. Without His HUMANITY, His suffering would not have existed and been without sacrifice.

Just like Pinocchio.....He wanted to be a "real boy"

And that's....The Gospel Truth!!

Your comments or questions are always welcome. Email them to: patcorn@maizeone.com

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