



A Controversial Baby

Simon on the Polarizing Effects of Jesus Christ
Luke 2:22-40

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • December 29 & 30, 2012 • Gospel of Luke, week 9 • Msg. # 12-42

• Jewish Ceremonies

1. _____ (v.21) → (Gen.17:12)
2. _____ (vv.22a, 24) → (Lev.12:6-8)
3. _____ (v.22b) → (1Sam.1:21-28)
4. _____ (v.23) → (Ex.13:2, 12-13)

Our Text → _____ surrounding Jesus' birth was done _____ (v.39)

• Messianic Claim

1. _____ to Zechariah: "he will go before the Lord... in the spirit of Elijah" (1:17)
2. _____ to Mary: "Son of the Most High... throne of his father David" (1:32)
3. _____ "filled with the HS" to Mary: "the mother of my Lord should come to me" (1:41b, 43)
4. _____ "filled with the HS": "has raised up a horn of salvation in the house of David" (1:67b, 69)
5. _____ to the Shepherds: "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (2:11)
6. _____ "the Holy Spirit was upon him": "my eyes have seen your Salvation" (2:25b, 30)
7. _____ the prophetess: "to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem" (2:38)

1. Sacrifice _____ (vv.34a, 35b)

2. Sacrifice _____ (v.34b)

3. Sacrifice _____ (v.35a)

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Galatians 1:6-10**. What are some of the specific ways Christians are tempted to "adjust the gospel" and "redefine Christ" in order to make them more palatable to people?
2. Read **2 Corinthians 2:15-17**. How can a Christian consider the polarizing effects of evangelism a "triumph", even when so many people respond negatively to it?
3. Read **Matthew 10:24-25**. What are some of the subtle (and not so subtle) ways we seek to avoid this disdain?
4. Read **2 Timothy 1:8**. When it comes to standing with Christ and his people, what are some of the specific situations where courage and boldness need to replace apprehension and timidity?
5. Read **Matthew 23:37** and **Romans 9:1-3**. What would say is missing in a Christian's life who tells you that he cannot identify with either of these passages?

The CBC Bible Reading Schedule for this Week:

Go to ESV.org (Reading Plans: Though the Bible) for schedule prompts.

December 30th
Zech. 13-14 & Rev. 21

December 31st
Mal. 1-4 & Rev. 22

January 1st
Gen. 1-2 & Mt. 1

January 2nd
Gen. 3-5 & Mt. 2

January 3rd
Gen. 6-8 & Mt. 3

January 4th
Gen. 9-11 & Mt. 4

January 5th
Gen. 12-14 & Mt. 5:1-26

January 6th
Gen. 15-17 & Mt. 5:27-48

The following related sermons are also available for free as mp3 downloads or audio streaming on the Focal Point Website (FocalPointMinistries.org).

Msg. # 07-38 – ***The Enduring Clash with Nativity's Antagonist***

Msg. # 08-21 – ***Gospel Crazy: Unashamed of Its Reproach***

Msg. # 07-24 – ***Looking Past the Pain to the Prize***

Msg. # 12-14 – ***Forecast for a Rebellious World***

Msg. # 11-08–11-11 – ***Enemies, Grace & Revenge*** (a four-part series)

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. ***The Cost of Discipleship***. SCM Press Ltd., 1959.

Carson, D. A. ***How Long O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil***. Baker Books, 1990.

_____. ***Telling the Truth: Evangelizing Postmoderns***. Zondervan, 2000.

Edwards, Jonathan. ***Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God & Pardon for the Greatest of Sinners***. Barbour, 1998.

Fitzpatrick, Elyse. ***Overcoming Fear, Worry and Anxiety***. Harvest House Publishers, 2001.

Foxe, John. ***Foxe's Book of Martyrs***. The John C. Winston Co., 1926.

Hefley, James and Marti. ***By Their Blood: Christian Martyrs of the 20th Century***. Baker Books, 1996.

House, Paul. ***Who Will Be Saved? Defending the Biblical Understanding of God & Salvation***. Crossway, 2000.

McKeehan, Toby and Mark Heimermann. ***Jesus Freaks: Stories of Those Who Stood for Jesus***. Albury Publishing, 1999.

Nash, Ronald. ***Is Jesus the Only Savior?*** Zondervan, 1994.

St. James, Rebecca. ***Sister Freaks: Stories of Women Who Gave Up Everything for God***. FaithWords, 2005

Water, Mark, ed. ***The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs***. Baker Books, 2001.

Woodbridge, John. ***Ambassadors For Christ: Distinguished Representatives of the Message in the World***. MBI, 1994.

Zacharias, Ravi. ***Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message***. Word Publishing, 2000.