



Where's Jesus? Luke 2:8-20

Caption Competition

Where's Jesus? Let's have a look at a short video clip.

WHERE'S JESUS?

We all celebrate Christmas in different ways. But however different they may be, there's one constant in Christ – mas – and that's Jesus. So where's Jesus in your Christmas?

Because of Christmas is a celebration of Jesus birth – His birthday, he should be right in the middle of the celebrations shouldn't He? It's His birthday we celebrate.

So who is Jesus and why should He be in the centre of the picture? Let's go back to that night in Bethlehem as shepherds were out in the fields watching their flocks. The angel was a bit of a surprise. There they were, guarding their flocks from wild animals or thieves. And suddenly they have this visit from the angels.

ANGEL

They were terrified! The angel had a message. He was announcing a birth. This was announcing Jesus' birthday for the first time. VERSE *"Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. 11 This very day in David's town your Saviour was born--Christ the Lord! 12 And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

When we think about Christmas – Jesus' birthday It's a question of the three Ws.

SLIDE Where, Why and Who?

WHERE

Jesus is real. He was born in a real town and his first day of life was witnessed by people in Bethlehem. Christmas is about a real person. There's so much other stuff mixed up with Christmas that doesn't have much to do with it that a real person is lost in all of it.

WHY

So why was Jesus born – to be a Saviour – a Rescuer. Do you need rescuing? Maybe you don't think you do. Many years ago my parents visited Tel Aviv in Israel. My mother was swimming and started to realise that she was moving away from shore. Before she had even realised that she was being dragged out to sea by a dangerous current, the beach lifeguard appeared and offered to take her ashore. She didn't know she needed rescuing but the lifeguard had already seen her and swum to her rescue.

If you don't know God today, you are in peril. Apart from possibly having issues in your life that need sorting out, where will you spend eternity? If you don't already know God, then it won't be with Him. You are in deep danger of spending eternity without God.

He already realised that each one of us were in danger and sent out the lifeguard – Jesus. That's why He's called the Saviour. He came to rescue people who for the large part spend their lives not even knowing they are in danger.

WHO

Even more amazing is this description of Jesus – He is the Messiah, the Christ and He's the Lord. God Himself became one of us to become our Saviour. We celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas, but more importantly in three months we are going to celebrate the fact He died and rose again. We are in danger because in living our lives without God we do things that are wrong. God calls them sin. We know we do and we are responsible for each of them and that keeps us apart from God. But when Jesus died he opened a way by which our sins could be forgiven and that we can know Him personally – here in life and for the whole of eternity.

PICTURE

Here's the picture of the nativity again, with Jesus returned. Have you ever noticed that in every nativity picture, JESUS IS AT THE CENTRE. That's not surprising. If the subject is the nativity, then Baby Jesus should be in the middle because He's the subject! BUT, knowing that He is Christ the Lord, and if you accept Him as saviour, then surely He must be at the CENTRE OF YOUR LIFE. The question I asked earlier was Where's Jesus? If you don't know Him this morning then He wants to know you, He wants to rescue you. T Make this Christmas the most important in your life by accepting Him today.

If you already know Jesus, then here we are at another Christmas. Is Jesus still the centre of your life?

Prayer

*Preached by Mark Reid
MRBC Felixstowe 16/12/12
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Luke 2:8 There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, 10 but the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. 11 This very day in David's town your Saviour was born--Christ the Lord! 12 And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God: 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!" 15 When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.

17 When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. 18 All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. 19 Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. 20 The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angel had told them.