

The Baby

Text: Luke 2:12; Acts 4:30

Introduction:

Birth never loses its wonder. Christ the Savior was born. The great joy and excitement of Christmas is the fascination of a baby.

Message:

1. Heaven participates in every birth.

- a. Heaven participated in Christ's birth. The multitude of the heavenly host sang because they knew the mission of this Child. He came to do God's will (Hebrews 10:9).
- b. Heaven is interested in every birth. Each baby boy can become a bloody Stalin or a blessed Stephen. Each baby girl can become a murderous Jezebel or a ministering Jochebed.
- c. Every baby is created in the image of God.

2. Wise men see the message in the Baby.

- a. Herod saw only a rival in the Baby and tried to kill him.
- b. Wise men see themselves in a baby—they remember they once were infants filled with possibilities for good, and they examine their lives to see whether they have become the kind of persons they might have been.
- c. Every baby is a reminder that as surely as life begins it also ends, and we should prepare to die.

3. God has sent a birth announcement to everyone.

- a. Birth announcements come in novel, arresting forms, but none can compare with the way Christ's birth was announced.
- b. A birth announcement calls for a gift in response.
- c. Our Lord is pleased if we give ourselves to Him. This is the gift—the response—He desires most.

Conclusion:

Some people shut Christ out as the innkeeper did, for their conduct is incompatible with the presence of this holy Babe in their lives and homes. You will never regret accepting this Gift from heaven. He will comfort you when you are sorrowful, provide meaning and fullness for your life when it seems useless and empty, bring light when the way seems dark, and provide joy when circumstances are grim. The arrival of a baby has changed the attitude and conduct in many a marriage, and the Babe of Bethlehem has changed many lives. God give you the good sense to acknowledge the greatest of all birth announcements.

—C. M. Ward