

Lessons from the Nativity Story: The Birth

How often do people find themselves up against the impossible? If something is impossible that means it's unable to be, exist or happen. It's something that can't be done.

Sometimes we look at a situation and we think, "that can't be done". And we might be right if it's something that we can't do or none of those around us can do it for us.

But do we forget that our God is a God who can do what is impossible to man? As I've said throughout this series, our God is a miracle working God. This means He can do what can't be done! He is not limited by the minds and thoughts of man. He is not limited by the laws of this life.

For with God nothing will be impossible. He has the strength, the power, and the ability to make anything possible.

As we continue in the Lessons from the Nativity Story, today we focus on the "impossible" birth and the change it brings.

Luke 2:1-7 (NKJV)

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

What an amazing account! Imagine if you were reading it for the first time, you don't know anything that happens next or in the other accounts that surround Jesus' birth, you only know the words of the prophets and you are reading this....

If you know Micah 5:2 state that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. But here Joseph and Mary find themselves in Nazareth and she's getting close to having this baby.

Consider the impossible here....some of you have been pregnant so imagine: You are pregnant, due date is near, and you need to travel across the country. What would you doctor say? He'd tell you NO, it's risky. And you'd be in a comfortable car or plane, not on a donkey!

What would you say? Probably NO. I want to be near my doctor who knows me and my baby. And I'm not in the mood to deal with all that comes with a long journey.

Joseph and Mary find themselves out of position for the prophecy to be fulfilled. What I love here is I don't even imagine them trying to fulfill it on their own, they are just following God as they had been before this pregnancy. See they received the words of God through the angel and then trusted Him.

Even in the impossible.....here we are in the wrong place and Mary's about to pop! Let's load her up on a donkey and travel about 90-100 miles through rough terrain. This journey took DAYS, scholars estimate anywhere from 4 on up to 10 days. This was not flat land like here to St. Louis and she was very pregnant!

Imagine this census being called if you were in their shoes, I think most of us would look at each other and say "that's impossible! We can't travel right now!" But all we know from Joseph and Mary is they went.

This census was timely, it was God ordained because it is what would get Jesus from Nazareth to Bethlehem in time for His birth to fulfill the scriptures. The scriptures that from the outside looking in, seem wrong or impossible at this stage of the pregnancy.

But God is faithful and true and if He says something is going to happen, you can be assured that it will happen.

Instead of saying "this is impossible" how about we trust God to make it possible?

If we don't have faith we will live life in doubt.....and the basis of faith is trust....trusting God. Joseph and Mary trusted God and went on this journey that was mandated by the government.

Luke 2:4-5 (NKJV)

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

Because they trusted God with the impossible we see God's promises become fulfilled.

You may never see God's promises fulfilled for your life if you don't trust Him with the impossible. For with God nothing will be impossible, these were the words that the angel gave to Mary when he told her of Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit.....a creative miracle, instantly by the power of God's Spirit.....impossible? Not with God!

Luke 2:6-7 (NKJV)

6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7
And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid
Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Here they are, in Bethlehem, and she's ready to have this baby! Notice it says they days were completed for her to be delivered. The literal days that God had planned had been fulfilled. They are in the right place by God's design, and it is the exact right day and timing....also by God's design.

And they are in an impossible situation....there is no room for them in the inn. Now I am the kind of person where if something like this happened, I'd be stressed out! This is impossible.....the town is crowded, everyone is home for the census, there's nowhere to stay and we gotta have a BABY?! NOW?!

This is impossible....there's nowhere to have this child, nowhere to rest.....what do we do? I don't know who's idea it was but someone says "hey there's room over there with the animals"

"Dude, with the animals? Are you crazy?"

Maybe the labor pains were so intense that Mary was like "I'll have him right here in the street if you don't get me a place to lie down" but they go to the animal's shelter (likely a cave) and there in the stench of dirty animals, hay, and manure, I guess Mary lies down....they get everything real clean and sanitary.....(how many ladies are on board with this for your next pregnancy?)

I wish I could see the actual scene of this young couple in what most would consider an impossible situation, but they humbly take the only shelter they can find and in the midst of the smells, noises and all the animals watching, Mary delivers this baby boy, the Savior of the world who would one day deliver her!

On this day, the greatest man to ever walk the face of this earth was born, His name is Jesus.

The very first Christmas day (who cares what the actual date was), on this day humanity was given a priceless, matchless gift. Jesus traded the glory of heaven for the humility of the manger.

The Creator of all of mankind would live among them. This is the good news that the angel spoke about to the shepherds. Remember this was the beginning of great joy to ALL people. The birth of the Savior, Christ the Lord!

The beginning of the impossible becoming possible. There is no one, not one single person before Jesus or since who has walked this earth and was without sin.....meaning we all are deserving of hell, eternal separation from a HOLY GOD.

But Jesus did what we could not....He lived a sinless life.....impossible? For us, yes. For God in the flesh.....NO. Not only possible, but completed, done!

This time of year we focus on Jesus' birth, and what a wonderful day it is, but the manger without the cross means nothing.

Some are content as long as the baby stays in the manger! But we must remember that what makes Christmas so special is that a baby was born but that a Savior was born.....

Jesus came to die! He was foreordained before the foundation of the world to go to the cross! Christmas is all about the Love of God!

The story does not end at the manger....but neither does it end at the cross! Thank God for that! The cross would have accomplished nothing if Jesus remained in the cemetery!

....went to the cross.....and died giving himself as a ransom for all the world! And He, the baby from the manger who went to the cross, He lives.....praise God! He lives!

The good news about Christmas does not end at the manger.....nor at the cross.....not even in the cemetery.....for he shall one day return in the clouds and so shall we ever be with the Lord!

I am not here to convince you that Christ is the answer, I am here to declare it. It's up to you on if or how you respond.

John 3:16-17 (NKJV)

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

This question comes to one simple answer. Jesus would rather die than be without you.

You cannot remember the cradle of Christ without remembering the cross. In choosing to come to earth, Jesus chose the ending on the cross.

Jesus came to demonstrate the love of God in living and in dying. Jesus came give all people the gift of grace, the gift of hope and the gift of love. Christmas is about Jesus giving us more than we could ever ask for, He gave us Himself.

At the cross redemption was released and its power was enough to set every prisoner free from. Even you. Even me.

Are you facing the impossible this morning? Jesus is the answer.

Jesus is powerful and mighty. With Him the impossible can be possible. With Him the natural can become supernatural. If you are not open to the supernatural, don't expect any change in the natural.

Religion that focuses only on a baby in manger is just dead religion. But true Christianity grasps the truth that the One who laid in that manger is the very image of God, the very One who created all the things in heaven and earth. He controls all kingdoms, powers and rulers and is the one who holds all things together.

Jesus is the One through whom all things are possible.

What is the impossible in your life today? What is the thing that you believe CAN NOT happen without divine intervention? Will you give it to Jesus today?

Have faith that He will do what is best for you, that He has only good for you.

If you don't live a life of faith you will live a life of doubt. Don't doubt the One through whom all things are possible!