

## **IN NEED OF THE SAVIOUR? 2009 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE**

Matthew 1: 25

Introduction:

For the past two years I have given the Christmas sermons from the Gospel of Luke and but today, I am speaking from the account of Matthew which most scholars believe was primarily for the Jews and to let them know that Christ is the promised Messiah they have been waiting for.

You cannot tell the story of the birth of Jesus without looking at his whole life. You cannot talk about his birth without talking about his death and vice-versa because He came for only one purpose of redeeming people back to their creator. The life of our Saviour must be looked at as a whole.

A research was done to find out peoples' understanding Christmas. 80% said it is a time of celebration (of what they don't know) and 19% said it is a time of family reunion and giving gifts and the rest 1% said it is a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. What an amazing results but it is a true reflection of our society.

All bad news:

Any day you tune to 10 O Clock news which is the major news of the day either on BBC one or ITV, 25 out of the 30 minutes of the news are bad news. Looking at movies and soap operas, more than 80% are characterised with violence and these shape our society. When children see this they accept that violence, sex, fraud and injustice are the right way of life. They never saw the better alternatives and we expect that they should behave saintly. How can they, when they have not been taught, how can they be taught when there is no teacher. And who can teach what he does not know?

Good News

But today I have good news for you. Tell your neighbour 'today is a day of good news'.

In today's text, I am just concentrating on verse 21, 'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, {Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the LORD saves} because he will save his people from their sins.'

Which sin would he save his people from? The same one Adam and Eve put us into when they rebelled against God and they eat the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil (this is known as sin). This led to spiritual separation between God and man.

Since we know the difference between good and evil, we have choice to do either. However, we sometimes think wrongly, say things wrongly and do things wrongly and that is not acceptable to God and we would never be good enough for him to accept us and that is why we need help.

However, because God is gracious and merciful, He wanted that broken relationship restored He arranged to help us. This help would be through the fruit of the woman (Genesis 3:15). He said "And I will put enmity between you and the

woman, and between your offspring {seed} and hers; he will crush {strike} your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Through the prophets God has always reminding His people of this promise in Genesis 3:15. Some of them are Isaiah, Micah, David and others who have foretold about this saviour. This promise was fulfilled in Jesus Christ

Satan strike Jesus heel on the Cross but Christ bruised Satan’s head in the grave and was raised up on the third day so that death, the only weapon Satan has was rendered powerless and made a public spectacle of him by His resurrection from the dead.

The New Testament on the other hand is the fulfilment of the Old because every prophecy about the redeemer was Christ. He was born to take away our sins.

How does thus relate to me?

You may ask, how can that relate to you, I am not a sinner, I have not done anything wrong? It relates to you because since that time of Adam and Eve brought sin into the world, every one that was born has been born as potential sinner because we possess the sin gene. That is why we sometimes think wrongly, say things wrongly and do things wrongly.

The reason why Jesus was born is to cancel that and make us right with God. You cannot earn this goodness by yourself, you only need to believe that Jesus came to save you and if you believe all Christ stood for, both his birth, death and resurrection and you ask Him to come into your life. If you do, your relationship with God will be restored and you will have eternal life and the peace of God will come on in such a manner you never knew before.

That is essence of Christmas. Christ is the centre of Christmas, unlike Marks and Spencer’s advert that says ‘Christmas is no Christmas without M&S’ I say to you Christmas is no Christmas without the reason for the season – Jesus, the Saviour, Christ the anointed one.

Celebrating Christmas without Him is like you are in a birthday party of the one you never knew, and you do not know how and why you are there.

Christmas is a blessing to humanity, the greatest and best gift from God to mankind. It is not a debt or a burden, but this occasion has been high-jacked by business people to commercialise it and put people into debt. But Christ’s coming to the world is a blessing because he came to cancel our debts and release us into his riches. He was rich, he became poor so that we might be rich, do you want that riches, accept Jesus into your life and you will receive forgiveness for your sins and you will be made right with God.

To conclude, the reason for Christmas is to be made right with God through Christ and all what He stood for and if you believe that and accept him into your live, your sins will be forgiven, you will be made right with God and have eternal life. If you want this you can pray this prayer with me now.

I believe that we all appreciate what God has done for us through Christ; he gave us the best gift. We should respond appropriately by giving generously to Haringey Winter Shelter who cares for the homeless. Christ was born homeless and a refugee in Egypt and he said to us whenever we stretch our hands to these groups of people we do it for him. I encourage you to be generous with your offering and God will bless you real God.

On this note I wish you all merry Christmas and a happy New Year.