



Advent at Faithbridge: The First Missionary

Text: Luke 2: 1-7; John 1:1-2, 14

Care and Bridging Pastor Dan Slagle

1. Jesus' birth illustrates His humanity. His incarnation, the fact that He was a human, with human flesh, is doctrinally significant. In order to save us, it was necessary for Jesus to be born and to die as a human.
 - a. Matthew 4:2; John 4:6; 19:28; In what ways did Jesus have human weaknesses and limitations?
 - b. John 11:33-35; Matthew 8:10; 26:38; Mark 3:5; Luke 10:21; What emotions did He have?
 - c. Luke 2:52; Hebrews 5:8. In how many ways did He grow? Did He have to grow in intelligence?
 - d. Did Jesus sin? 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15.
 - e. Was it necessary for Jesus to be a human? Hebrews 2:17.
 - f. Does His experience as a human enable Him to help us? As both God and human, is He uniquely qualified to be a High Priest, a mediator between God and humans? Hebrews 4:15; 1 Timothy 2:5.
 - g. What is the significance of this? See Romans 8:1-4
2. In response to Jesus "going all the way" for us, we as disciples respond by "going all the way with our lives." Stewardship is an important part of that process. The concept of stewardship entails the resources each of us have: time, talents, and money. (See Study Deeper)
 - a. Why do you think it is important to change the way we view ourselves as stewards of God's gifts, rather than owners of the people and things in our lives?
 - b. What differences would you expect to see in the life of someone who lived as an entrusted steward rather than autonomous owner?
 - c. Is there a specific area of your life (or item) that God is calling you to release and give back to him? If so, describe what obedience will entail as you respond to Him?
 - d. Do you live as a steward who will give an account for the time God has given and entrusted to you or as a personal owner free to act as you so desire?

- e. Do we use it for ourselves and meeting our own needs, or are we learning to use our time for God's purposes and God's plans?
3. Read 2 Kings 4:1-7, Matthew 14:13-21. It is easy to fall into thinking that you not are rich enough or talented enough or smart enough to make a meaningful contribution to the kingdom, how might the truth that God can do a lot with a little encourage you?
4. Read Matthew 20:28. Jesus gave His life not only by dying, but by living Jesus used His time to serve others and He calls us to do the same. How much of your time is devoted to serving other people? How do we use the time given us? What changes might you need to make to be able to prioritize using your time for others?

Challenge: Keeping track of how you spend your day can be of great value in evaluating the stewardship of your time. Record the number of hours spent on business, class, sleep, Christian service, recreation, etc. Place the total hours per week used in each activity below.

Stewardship of Time

Study & Class:

Activities & Athletics:

Devotional Life:

Commuting:

Christian Service:

Employment:

Rest:

Laundry & Clean-up:

Recreation & Social Life:

Miscellaneous:

Determine what blocks of time are wasteful. How could you use them to serve the Lord?

Prayer: Gracious Father, I pray that you would teach me the correct and wise use of the time, finances, and relationships you have placed in my life. I know that it is a responsibility to use these wisely. Please guide me and correct me when and where I need it. Enable me to be a faithful steward of all you have entrusted me with and a fruitful giver in your Kingdom, dear Lord. Help me, O Lord, too always be grateful for what you supply. I trust You to always accommodate every need in the abundance of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

STUDY DEEPER

<https://www.cru.org/train-and-grow/10-basic-steps/8-giving.1.html>