**December 17, 2017 “He Will Be Great” Luke 1:26-35**

It is my opinion that one of the problems that assails us as Christians in our studies of the Bible is that once we have heard or read a familiar passage of Scripture we oftentimes think that we understand it and that we do not have to spend the time to re-study it again. Take for example our passage today. How many times during the Christmas season have we not read or heard this passage being recited?

As an example, while this is not our passage today, I can remember being in the third or fourth grade and every year our school would perform a Christmas program for their parents, grandparents and anyone else who wanted to attend. The church would be packed to capacity and sometimes people would even have to stand in the back of the church or alongside the pews in the aisles. The task given to me that night was to read from Luke chapter two which is the passage concerning the angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

Now one of the great fears of my parents was that one of their children would embarrass them. Looking back on it, I think I was God’s gift to them to help them get over that fear. Anyway, I had to practice and read and re-read Luke 2 until I nearly had it memorized.

So, I began to wonder if that has not happened too many of us with our passage today. Have we heard it or read it so many times that we no longer see the wonderment of this passage?

1. Luke 1:26-35
   1. Angel Gabriel was sent by God
      1. How long had it been since God had issued a visitation to the nation of Israel?
      2. How long since a miracle had occurred?
         1. Hezekiah… shadow moved back up 10 steps
      3. It has now been 400 years since Malachi wrote
         1. “The sun of righteous will rise with healing in its wings and you will go forth and skip about like calves released from the stall.”
   2. Now there is not only one miracle but rather a host of them are set to occur
      1. Zacharias and Elizabeth
         1. How old were they?
            1. Maybe they were in their 60’s or 70’s?
            2. We don’t know?? All we know is that they were told they were going to have child
            3. Zach can’t speak
            4. Elizabeth… the baby leaps in her womb (Malachi 4:2)
2. Joseph and Mary
   1. How old were they?
      1. Mary, most scholars feel was probably around 13-14 years old?
   2. How old was Joseph?
      1. Many think he too may have been in his teens… 14-15 years old?
   3. Now if you were 15 and your girlfriend came to you and said she was going to have a child because an angel told her so. What would you think?
3. This is no ordinary child
   1. Luke 1:32… He will be great… glorious
      1. Not like John the Baptist Luke 1:15
         1. Great in the site of the Lord
      2. But great… greater that anything before
      3. KJV… Luke 1:35… “that holy thing”
         1. Even Gabriel cannot find the words to describe
            1. Calm the seas

Story of the air craft carrier

* + - * 1. Walk on the water
        2. Heal the blind and the lame
        3. Cast out demons
        4. Raise the dead
        5. After three days in the tomb raised Himself from the dead!
  1. Luke 1:32… the Son of the Most High
     1. Genesis 14:18-20
        1. El-Elyon… the sovereign over all peoples, nations and over all things seen and unseen
     2. Hebrews 1:3
     3. Colossians 1:15-19
  2. “That holy thing”
     1. Fully human… Luke 1:31
        1. Conceived in your womb
        2. Following the course of normal human birth
     2. Never has man ever seen a child like this
        1. Most of you like your children at times
        2. Other times you wonder where they came from
     3. Can you imagine having a child that when
        1. Its bedtime… get ready for bed and they do it?
        2. Don’t touch that, and they don’t?
        3. Go find your coat, and shoes and they do it?
     4. We have no idea what it would be like to have
        1. “A Holy Child”

1. Luke 1:32… He is going to reign as King
   1. Revelation 19:11-16

In a few minutes we are going to hand out gifts to the children but before we do let’s sing “O Come all Ye Faithful”