I want to share with you two thoughts this morning that I feel the Lord has placed on my heart. I want us to go back to that stable and think about two thoughts…

1. The Sounds in the Town
2. The Scene at the Throne

One is the earthly scene; the other is the Heavenly scene! I trust that the Holy Spirit will speak to us this morning.

I. THE SOUNDS IN THE TOWN

We know that Bethlehem was filled to capacity with people. The census that Caesar had imposed had filled the city of Bethlehem with people. What many thought was just an ordinary night, became an extraordinary night when the Savior was born. I believe the birth of the Savior caused three different conversations among the people in the city.

A. There was a GOSSIPING COMMOTION

I am certain the news of Mary's delivery caused some gossip among some of the people. It always amazes me at the speed that gossip travels! The conversation probably went something like this…Did you hear about that young girl who gave birth down in the stable. I heard she is not even married to the man she is with (Mary was espoused to Joseph, but the marriage was not to be consummated during the espousal). I can top that. I have it on good information that young man with her, I believe Joseph is his name, is not even the father of the baby. What about that?

B. There was the GENERAL COMMENTS

Some just talked about the fact that a young lady had given birth to a boy baby down in the stable. To some it was just an ordinary birth. Some probably wondered how much did He weigh, how long was He, and what did they name Him? Some probably wondered if it was their first child. Some probably said, "I wonder if they wanted a boy?" Some probably talked about the fact that they were from Nazareth. Some probably speculated that the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem might have hastened the birth. I am sure that you could hear those general comments that people make when they hear about the birth of a child.

C. There was the GLORIOUS CONVERSATION

The Bible said that after the angel of the Lord appeared to the Shepherds in the field and announced the birth of the Savior that they made haste and went to Bethlehem to behold this thing that the Lord had made known unto them and had come to pass.

*Luke 2:17

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

…When the days were accomplished, on earth in the town of Bethlehem there was…

1. Gossiping Commotion
2. General Comments
3. Glorious Conversation

II. THE SCENE AT THE THRONE
I want by the help of the Holy Spirit this morning to roll back the sky and look at the throne. What was the scene at the throne where God the Father is seated? What do we see?

A. HIS Passion that is Fervent
I BELIEVE THE FATHER WAS SMILING! For Jesus was EMMANUEL…God with us! I make that statement this morning based upon the Word of God!
1. His Passion is DECLARED…John 3:16
2. His Passion is DEMONSTRATED… Romans 5:8
*Yes God the Father knew…
• The PAIN His Son would endure; but, He also knew the PEOPLE He would emancipate (set free from sin's bondage)!
• The SORROW His Son would be pierced with; but, He also knew the SALVATION He would provide!
• The RIDICULE His Son would be subject to; but, He also knew the REDEMPTION He would shoulder!
…The Prophet Isaiah gave this commentary,
*Isaiah 53:10-12
Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. [11] He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. [12] Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

…I believe God the Father smiled as He beheld the Lord Jesus lying in that feeding trough turned into a manager. God looked ahead some 33 plus years and saw the separation that sin had caused between Him and man being spanned by the CROSS!

B. HIS Plan that was Fruitful
Before the foundation of the world, God had ordained that this day would come to pass. God looked in that feeding trough turned manager and saw that HIS plan was coming to fruition.
*1 Peter 1:18-20
Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; [19] But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: [20] Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

C. HIS Purpose that was FULFILLED
Jesus was EMMANUEL…God with us! But before He could be with us…HE HAD TO FIRST BECOME LIKE US! Jesus was the GOD-MAN! When God looked at that feeding trough turned manager…HIS Purpose was fulfilled.
*Hebrews 2:17-18
Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. [18] For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.
*Hebrews 4:14-16
Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. [15] For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. [16] Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

1. HE is God with us when we face the STRUGGLES of life…Philippians 4:13
I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me.

2. HE is God with us when we face the SORROWS of life…John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

3. HE is God with us when we face the various SITUATIONS of life…I Peter 5:7

Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

…When the days were accomplished, in the throne room of Heaven, God the Father look down upon the stable in Bethlehem into that feeding trough turned into a manger…

1. With a PASSION that was FERVENT
2. Saw His PLAN was FRUITFUL
3. His PURPOSE was FULFILLED

…Thank God the days were accomplished that she should be delivered!

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