

Sermons 2008

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Chapter 1. Mary Had A Little Lamb

READ - *Matthew 1:18-25*

TEXT - *Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)*

Introduction

We all learned it when little - Mary had a little lamb...

Probably every one of you can recite it by heart. I wonder why it's so memorable? There are a lot of verses taught in childhood that don't have staying power like this one. But it sticks, somehow.

Have you considered it as a depiction of the gospel, though? It definitely fits in with the Christmas story:

Mary Had A Little Lamb

1. I see the miracle of the virgin birth.

She WAS a virgin, you know. That's not an optional part of Christianity. Some people struggle to believe it, for some reason, but it is a fact and a vital doctrinal truth.

a. His mother was a virgin - never touched by man:

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18 NIV)

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14 KJV)

b. His Father was GOD:

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:34-35 KJV)

Because of this truth, He was and is the Son of God and the Son of Man. He is and was 100% human and 100% divine. And that is the ONLY reason He could pay the price for our sin.

You can't leave the virgin birth out of the equation!

ILLUS - I love the way Mark Lowry put it in his wonderful song, "Mary Did You Know":

Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, you have kissed the face of God.

2. I see the wonder of the Lamb of God.

Before that first Christmas... before Jesus came... lambs were regularly offered as sacrifices for sin.

But only Jesus could truly pay for our sin, and that's why John said of Him:

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)

ILLUS - Abraham and Isaac on Mt. Moriah - God will provide a lamb. He did - in Jesus.

Mary had a little Lamb...

It's Fleece Was White As Snow

1. I see the impeccability of Christ.

"What's that big word, preacher?"

It basically means that Jesus could not and did not sin.

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. (1 Peter 1:22 KJV)

For such a High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners... (Hebrews 7:26 KJV)

He hath made Him to be sin for us Who KNEW NO SIN. (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

2. I see the only One worthy to save me.

We talk about this all the time here at FBC:

I'm a sinner (and so are you) - *All have sinned...*

Sin leads to death and judgement - *The wages of sin is death...*

Jesus died for my sin / in my place - *God commendeth His love toward us...*

I can be saved by believing in and accepting Christ's finished sacrifice - *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus Christ, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved...*

But not just any lamb would have been worthy to die in my place. Only the perfect lamb - only Jesus - the Lamb that taketh away the sin of the world... only Jesus - the Lamb whose fleece was white as snow.

Everywhere That Mary Went, The Lamb Was Sure To Go.

1. I see Emmanuel - God With Us - (cf. *Matthew 1:23*)

ILLUS - We sang about this on Sunday - Emmanuel

ILLUS - This was PICTURED in the O.T. with the pillar of fire in the wilderness...

ILLUS - It was PICTURED by the mercy seat on the Ark of the Covenant...

But not until Mary had a little Lamb, whose fleece was white as snow, was it true and forever true.

2. I see a wondrous relationship - Jesus With Us!

And here's where the story gets wonderful:

Jesus is with us - always!

When we are burdened with problems and cares of life, worried about the uncertainties of the future, saddened at injustices we've received, grieving over loss.. afraid... weak... ashamed - HE IS THERE.

EVERYWHERE that Mary went, the Lamb was sure to go.

When nobody else encourages us when we're in despair... offers a helping hand when we're in need... has the answers for our questions... cares whether we live or die - HE IS THERE.

EVERYWHERE that Mary went, the Lamb was sure to go.

Conclusion

REPEAT POEM

A child's poem...and yet, when applied to our Lord, it is rich in meaning.

Tomorrow morning, we'll celebrate the birth of the Savior. As we do, may we remember that little Baby, born in the manger, was the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

He was the Lamb whose fleece was white as snow... the Lamb who is with us every step of the way.

Invitation

Chapter 1. Mary Had A Little Lamb