

For Kladno Sep 14 2014

This morning I would like us to look at some important events about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ but from a slightly different perspective.

Obviously I need to start at the Incarnation.

The Holy Spirit overshadows Mary and the maiden becomes pregnant.

How can she explain this? To Joseph; to her parents; to the villagers?

She can only tell the truth.

Read Matthew. 1: 18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly.

20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

If that was the reaction of Joseph, who loved her what must have been the attitude of her village folk? (Indirectly this verifies the truthfulness and integrity of Mary because he too believes what the angel told him and remains loyal to her).

The village people talking about her, knowing nods and staring?

At worst the legalists would want to stone her.

Let's move on in time.

9 months since the visit of Gabriel.

9 months of wondering. What will this unique miracle baby look like?

9 months of protection by Joseph.

Now this awful journey to be met with even more rejection.

No room! No welcome! Shame – no one cared for a woman about to give birth!

A stable? A feeding trough? For the Son of God? (For my baby?)

Luk 2:19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered *them* in her heart.

These events are very familiar to us so I would like to try and look at them by asking an imaginary question to Mary; a question that I am sure we have often asked ourselves

Mary ponders. Was it worth it?

The child grows; unique; different; sinless; verbal mocking.

NKJ Hebrews 5:8 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.

Yet we must move on 30 years (thinking of 3 years difficult ministry) to the final ultimate rejection.

The cross overshadows the crib.

Mary looks at her son on the cross. A mother's look.

A cross? For the Son of God? (For my baby?).

Read Isaiah 53: 3-7 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Mary ponders. Was it worth it?

Come with me through the crucifixion and the resurrection to His ascension. They return to Jerusalem; Jesus appears to them and teaches them over 40 days followed by 10 days of silence whilst they wait for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1: 13 ... when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James.

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Mary the mother of Jesus is at this gathering in the upper room praying; and the women; and His brothers.

Sins forgiven; healed; restored; a new relationship.

This is a time of supplication and prayer to the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings seated on His eternal throne, the true throne of David now occupied by the Son of David.

Jesus is risen.

Jesus is Lord.

Jesus is Mary's Lord.

Ask her now

Was it worth it? (now asking this question with a note of victory in ones voice).

WAS IT WORTH IT?

We must ask ourselves the same question.

Can we reply with a redounding “YES” because we know Him as our Lord, our Saviour and we too love Him and worship Him?