

The Christmas story in Mark's Gospel

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus, Christ, Son of God. Mark 1:1

1. Jesus' birth prepared Him for His

"Name Him 'Jesus' because... Matthew 1:20-21

Jesus was born without sin, to without sin.

"You must be born " John 3:3,7

"The Holy One to be born will be the Son of God" Luke 1:35

"He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus lived His life without sin, to live His life , without sin.

2. Jesus' life prepared Him for His

Jesus lived in God's plan, to die in

Predestination occurs 6x in Scripture. Acts 4:28, Romans 8:29,30, 1 Corinthians 2:7, Ephesians 1:5,11

"Those people did whatever Your hand and Your plan had predestined to take place." Acts 4:28

It is God's plan that Jesus lives in me, so I may God's plan.

"He predestined us to become conformed to the image of His Son." Romans 8:29

3. Jesus' death prepared for His life

Jesus died for me, to give His life

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

I died with Jesus, so He could live His life

"I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me..." Galatians 2:20

Christmas is not just Jesus coming into the world. It is also, Jesus coming into me.

Starter questions for personal reflection or group study

1. With what Christmas traditions or practices did you grow up?
2. Mark's Gospel bypasses Christmas and begins with the ministry of Jesus. Why do you think he omits the Christmas story?
3. Do you think your birth and early childhood has had an influence on how you grew up?
4. Do you think the birth and early childhood influenced how he grew?
5. No one is predestined to Heaven or Hell. Is that good news or bad news? Is predestination my responsibility or God's (Rom.8:29)?
6. Explain 2 Corinthians 5:21 without using religious jargon.
7. What do you most enjoy about Christmas?

Watch it again: www.lifechurchpanania.org [then select Full Screen]

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