

# United Temple Bulletin

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## Master's Comments on the Birth of Jesus

"In the Bible, it is said that Mary said 'I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' She was obedient and accepted the information given her.

"Jesus was different from other people in His mission, not in His manhood. He was to be the Messiah of the whole world. For that purpose He was chosen even before He was born. He was born to be the Messiah. To be born as the Messiah from the beginning, His lineage had to be chosen. He had to come from a specific line. His ancestors from way back had already been chosen. He could not come from just any family, but only the one chosen. From that lineage were many offspring, so His parents had to also be chosen.

"To satisfy your curiosity, I can explain very plainly. But since most fundamental Christians believe that Jesus was born of a virgin by the Holy Spirit, and God's primary object of this dispensation is Christians (it is His Will that we lead Christians first because they are the ones who have been keeping the promise of the Second Coming), it is our mission to tell them first, whether they refuse or accept. If I explain everything plainly about the Birth of Jesus, it may stumble many Christians in accepting God's new dispensation. Therefore, I don't want to explain everything too plainly here.

"To be conceived by the Holy Spirit means that Jesus was not born of the lust of his parents. It was not just human desire. Both were inspired, and in that sense they were almost forced to have the relationship which produced Jesus. This makes it somewhat different from the ordinary birth. So, He was a chosen man, but He was a man.

"Jesus was born from the beginning as the Prince of Heaven, to be the Messiah. In that sense, he was the only begotten son. From His birth He probably felt different from other children, but the full consciousness of His mission did not occur until He was older.

"Abraham and Sarah had Isaac, not from their physical desire, but through the power of the Holy Spirit of God. Jesus case was not exactly the same, but in the matter of the desire of the parents they were the same.

"Here you can compromise two extreme theories. Modern theologians deny completely any supernatural birth of Jesus. Fundamentalists say that He was born of the Holy Spirit without a human father. In our explanation we can reconcile two extremely different positions."

(Source: "Master Speaks", MS-7 By The Unified Family, Washington, D.C.)

"The Miracle of the Twelve"

By Ernest O. Hauser

Jesus, at the beginning of His ministry, picked twelve disciples to share the hardships of his brief career.

X Although cathedrals have been raised to glorify their names and there are many legends about them, we actually know very little about their lives. They ranged in temperament from the rough-edged impetuosity of Simon Peter to the cool rationality of Philip.

It was not unusual that Jesus who was a wandering preacher chose disciples. Isaiah had been accompanied by loyal followers, and rabbis during the time of Christ, had disciples. But acceptance of Christ's call had to be total and immediate. It meant forsaking family, and possessions. One would-be volunteer was turned away because he wanted to go home and bid farewell to his relatives before becoming a disciple. "No man," Christ told him, "having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Why did Jesus choose twelve? He wanted his men to represent the twelve tribes of their people; to be, in spirit, the "new Israel." Besides the number twelve is suggestive of the lunar cycle and the hours of the day.

Except for John, who was younger, the twelve men were vigorous and in their prime - toughened by outdoor life and the sharp contrasts of the local climate.

The disciples mostly came from the more modest levels of society. Four were fishermen.

The twelve looked much like the wandering Bedouins that one can still encounter in the Galilian hills. They were bearded and sandal-shod, dressed in coarsely woven robes and flowing headgear.

Few of them had much formal education. Although Matthew and John wrote Gospels, and others left us dictated or penned epistles.

Between the great occasions recorded in the Gospels, life went on. There were, no doubt, the rough camaraderie and banter of the open trail. There were personal friendships and, also, an occasional quarrel.

The 13 traveled over the Galilean countryside giving their messages to the people in the villages. They slept in caves or sheltered places or with some luck, in a friendly home. As Jesus' fame spread through the land, crowds would gather wherever he appeared. The impact of Christ's personality was overwhelming. His irresistible magnetism and natural authority, made him even more compelling by his simple manner, shine clearly through the Gospel narratives. As the disciples shared the intimacy of Christ's daily life they were exposed to a tremendous force. Almost imperceptibly, their minds were molded.

In Christ's unfathomable isolation, their warm, intensely human presence must have been a comfort. He once said to them, "Henceforth, I call you not servants, for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends." When many of his other followers began to drift away he asks, "Will ye also go away?" and we feel there is something close to anguish in the question.

Considerable courage was required of the Twelve. Jesus said "I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves." And yet with the blows that came to them they were prepared for their future role of missionaries and preachers.

Yet, while the Lord was with them, even the most perceptive of the Twelve never quite grasped the meaning of his mission. Once when they begged him to explain a parable, he sighs, "Know ye not this parable? And how then will ye know all parables?" When Philip asks for evidence to bolster his belief, Christ sadly answers, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip?"

Clashes between Christ and the local power structure - the Pharisees and Scribes - became more violent as time went on. "Men shall revile you and persecute you...for my sake," Christ warned. He startles the disciples by asking, "Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

We know from the Bible that Judas was the treasurer of the group and he asked the priests, "What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you?" But, if greed was the motive for the betrayal, was 30 shekels enough blood money? Or was this meant as a down payment on a larger sum?

After the death of Christ, the eleven sheep were left without their shepherd. Filled with the Holy Spirit, they now gave witness of the Master's life and resurrection, preaching the Gospel "to every creature."

James, son of Zebedee, was the first of the Twelve to suffer martyrdom, being put to the sword on orders of King Herod. Peter journeyed to Rome, where he is believed to have been crucified by the Emperor Nero. Tradition suggests that nearly all the brethren "drank of the cup" of which their Lord had drunk, fulfilling in triumphant death the terms of their commission.

A dozen men, chosen seemingly at random, thus came to constitute the living link between Christ and Christianity. Their victory, as John predicted, ~~overcame the world.~~ Within three and a half centuries the mighty Roman Empire itself succumbed to the glad tidings from the East.

(Source: "Reader's Digest", December 1967)

"Minister's Wife Reveals Value of Family Life"

✓ Mrs. Ruth Graham, wife of evangelist Billy Graham, believes that "home is the most important place in the world."

✓ "A mother has the most enviable position in the world," she said. "Training children is a tremendous responsibility and an enjoyable job."

The evangelist joins his wife and 19 year old son at their mountain top home between campaigns and Franklin, 14 and Bunny, 16, join them during school vacations.

Gigi, the oldest lives in Switzerland with her husband and two children, and Anne, married last September, lives in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Mrs. Graham said, "Children grow so quickly that I just feel it's so important to have one parent with them." ^

When Billy Graham is with the family, they plan special activities. Last summer he took his sons to California.

✓ "This is the important thing to remember", Mrs. Graham said, "The quality of the time spent with children is more important than the quantity of time."

X Mrs. Graham's days are filled with running the home, correspondence, reading and sewing and working in the yard. On Sundays she teaches a class of college students at Montreal Presbyterian Church. Also, she is assistant den mother for her son's Cub Scout pack.

The Graham's relationship with their children is one of respect for the individual. "Children are sent to us by the Lord, and we have the responsibility of training and teaching them the few short years they are here. You want to do the best you can. ..."

C When Mrs. Graham disagreed with her daughters on fashion fads she said she tried to distinguish between moral issues, such as lying and cheating and good taste. She believes a girl should be feminine.

Her husband tells her she raises them with a switch in one hand and a Bible in the other.

The two older daughters married at ages 17 and 18. She believes her daughters were ready for marriage, but she doesn't believe in young marriages. She feels it depends on the circumstances.

✓ Mrs. Graham said that their only ambition for their children is for them to grow up to be "God-fearing, God honoring men and women."

"What profession they choose is relatively immaterial. Children have to be able to face life and live it."

{ Mrs. Graham was born in China, where her parents were medical missionaries. When she was 13, she went to Korea to a girls' school and then came to the United States to attend college.

"The most important thing a mother can do is teach her child about God and about Jesus Christ while they are young. We've taught our children the Bible is the one sure guide in an unsure world."

The greatest need today, she said is "human nature, and this need can only be met at the cross."

(Source: Ogden Standard-Examiner, November 19, 1967)

#### "Previewing the Future of America"

Experts from various fields are considering the fact that the 21st century is almost upon us and what it will bring. Will it bring the good life to Americans? Will it be unbearably crowded and clogged? They fear it, but have ideas for avoiding it.

✓ Fifty years from now there will probably be men from earth on the moon. Will it be easier to make that journey than to commute to work?

There will be technicians with computers capable of the most ingenious innovations. But will their children have ready access to the ABC's of human knowledge? Will we breathe clean air, drink good water, boast good health?

Or will technology, moon-gearred and missile-oriented leave man, in his every day existence, lagging far behind?

For a glimpse into that world, the 50 year old American Institute of Planners called recently for the ideas of respected authorities on housing, transportation, finance and the arts. Following is a composite view.

By the year 2020 the population, now 200 million, will be about 350 million. About 80 percent of the population will be living in vast metropolitan areas.

Political scientist, Sebastian de Grazia, has predicted that the average work week by the year 2000 will average 31 hours, perhaps as few as 21. Twenty years later on-the-job hours may have dwindled to 26 or even 16.

De Grazia says, "There is no reason to fear, as some do, that free time, forced free time, will bring on the restless tick of boredom, idleness, immorality and increased personal violence. If the cause is identified as automation and the preference for higher intelligence, nonautomated jobs may increase, but they will carry the stigma of stupidity. Men will prefer not to work rather than to accept them. Those who do accept them will increasingly come to be a politically inferior class."

One possible solution to this is a separation of income from work; perhaps a guaranteed annual wage to provide "the wherewithal for a life of leisure for all those who think they have the temperament."

To accommodate the new age of leisure, the city has to be turned into a place for man to live in and enjoy, rather than a place for him to escape from to restore his senses."

✕ Educator Robert M. Hutchins says, "An educational system that aims at manpower rather than manhood will not suffice. ..." Hutchins envisions an educational system geared not to "a limited, partial life," but "to prepare for a full life for all."

"A six year elementary school, a three-year high school and a three-year college should suffice to give everybody a basic, liberal education. Only those students interested in and qualified for independent study should go on to the university."

The university in Hutchins view, must become a center of independent thought and criticism, geared to the intellect, abandoning irrelevant activities, such as intercollegiate athletics.

Pervading the thoughts of most of the planners is the fundamental question whether space-age technology will end up being man's master or his servant. David T. Bazelon, writer and social critic says, "Technology does not change society; it destroys it."

On the other hand August Heckscher, public official and author sees possible salvation in the hippies of today. He says it is easy to dismiss the hippies as a fad, but the other possibility should not be disregarded that "they represent the beginning of a withdrawal from the values and concepts which have dominated the Western world for more than five centuries. They may be the beginning of an antitechnological movement which will slow down the mindless pursuit of technological change carried out for its own sake, without concern for the human values which it supposedly serves."

#### BRIEF NEWS REELS

##### Seoul, Korea

A special training session is under way in our Mother Church now. Nearly 400 young men and women selected from local and metropolitan areas are receiving training. They will be the candidates for "Sacred Marriage" that will take place about February, 1968.

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

David S.C. Kim received a cable from Seoul, Korea on Christmas day announcing that Our Master and Our Real Mother have a new baby girl born on December 24, 1967. Congratulations to Our Master and Our Real Mother!