

Baby Steps

Big Idea: A Word to the “whys”: Jesus coming to us as a humble and helpless baby illustrates how we are to come to Him!

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” Luke 2:8-12

Before the “wise men” ever showed up on the scene, there were a lot of “whys” questions surrounding the birth of Jesus. Why on earth did God arrive on our planet like He did! Let’s work from the end of this passage back to the beginning and ask some of those important “why” questions.

1. Why a Baby?

Wouldn’t it be more appropriate and impressive for the Messiah, the Saviour, the King of Kings to arrive on this planet as a confident, take-charge adult, riding on white stallion? Why a helpless, dependent baby? Where’s the man with the plan, the pedigree, and the persuasive power to negotiate freedom for His people?

Jesus gave us the answer after He grew into that man (replacing the stallion with a donkey): *At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 18:1-4*

2. Why Bethlehem?

Couldn’t we find a better place for the Son of God than a smelly, saliva-soaked feeding trough in a barn on the outskirts of a nothing town like Bethlehem? Where’s the cool crib, or better yet a throne, a palace, or at least a five-star hotel? Didn’t God plan ahead? Why not make reservations instead of discovering at the last minute there was no room in the inn?

Actually God did plan ahead, hundreds of years ahead actually (ca 750 BC), prophesying a humble arrival for His only Son in none other than the lowly city of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). It was entirely right for the “House of Bread” to become the birthplace of the Bread of Life.

3. Why a Bunch of Shepherds?

The angels had prepared for centuries to announce the Saviour’s birth but why did only a few shepherds on a lonely hill outside of town get to witness the greatest concert of all time? And why shepherds, the most despised thieves and liars of that day? Weren’t there more reliable, more credible witnesses available to pass on the most important news story of human history?

The answer is there in the text: this is *good news of great joy for all people*, including shepherds. You don’t have to be on someone’s Christmas card list to qualify! He even loves shepherds from Bethlehem. And you don’t have to clean up your life to receive Jesus – He was born in a barn, for goodness sakes! And you don’t have to worry that He won’t understand – He knows everything you’re going through. In fact, He has experienced it all, from birth to death. But it didn’t end there for Him and it doesn’t have to for us. If we follow His example of humbling ourselves, admitting our need for a Saviour, He’ll take us places we’ve only dreamed about.

But it starts with baby steps. Will you step out today?