

**Christmas Eve 2008, 8 PM & 11 PM**  
**Luke 2:1-20**  
**Sermon for Advent LC**  
**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**Sermon interweaved with Solo of Mary Did you Know**

*Mary, did you know that your baby boy would someday walk on water? Mary did you know that your baby boy will save our sons and daughters? Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new? This child that you've delivered will soon deliver you.*

Mary, Mary, Mary- did you know that the child who was growing inside of you was the savior of the world? I mean, yeah you were visited by the angel, and you understood that this was God's will but could you put your mind around all the things this child was going to do? Your child, the one who came from God through you has come to defeat death and the devil, has come to break into the world that we are part of, has come to stir us from our brokenness. Did you know that he would truly be the savior of the world, and that everything he touched would be different, that everyone he encountered would be changed? Did you know that this baby, who came into this world in the most unglamorous of ways would rule the world and all of us as our King? This child, this baby boy, this one who you delivered into this world is our Lord, our savior the one who will deliver all of us now and forever. Oh Mary, did you know? Oh Mary, do we know, do we truly know the power of Christ in our lives and turn into his arms as the one who will deliver us for all eternity?

*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 the storm with his hand? Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod? When you kiss your little baby, you've kissed the face of God. The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again. The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb! Mary did you know?*

So while we could sit here and wonder what Mary was thinking, I think we will be served better to consider what we are thinking about this baby, this baby born in a manger, so many years ago- this baby that came and will come again who changed and continues to change the world- what do we think, what do we know? The promise of our faith is simple- the Jesus whose birth we celebrate tonight has come into the world to change your life, not just once, not just occasionally but always and forever. The baby who was born in that manger was God incarnate, God in human form, God who came out of love for us and our sinful selves- why....because he loves us. And now, as we sit here and wonder with Mary about the power of this babe, may we reflect a little bit about the savior this baby is- he would grow to perform miracles, to calm storms- literally and figuratively in our lives, he would heal people, he would save you...do you know that Jesus came for you? The oddity of the story that a baby, was born to a virgin mother, in a stable in Bethlehem does not end there in the manger but continues to evolve into perhaps the hardest thing for us to understand- God loves you forever, and ever and that love will never change. Dear friends, know this...the Christ child, the Messiah born all those years ago came for you, and loves you perfectly- know that, don't wonder about it but know it and claim it as your word as your promise as your truth as your story. Oh dear friends, do you know that Jesus is God's perfect love poured out? Do you know that God sent Jesus to this world for you?

*Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation? Mary did you know that your baby boy will one day rule the nations? Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect Lamb? This sleeping child you're holding is the Great I Am!*

You know it may be the best story ever told- God loved you so much that he sent Jesus into this world, born of a virgin, in a dark and cold stable and this love that began so long ago continues to come to you again and again. This Jesus, this baby, this perfect love is the Lord of all creation, and more than that is the Lamb for all of creation. Think about that- God sent his perfect child to rule your life, and then this Lord of all creation, this God made flesh, grew and gave his life over for you. It's crazy, it makes no sense but friends that's the promise of our faith- that's the story of who we are and where we come from-

so hear it one more time...God's love came to you in a perfect baby born thousands of years ago, and now this love that knows no end comes to you again and again. I don't know where you are at right now, but wherever you are here this word of hope- God loves you, loves you forever, has claimed you and called you by name has promised to never leave you and this God who entered our lives as a Baby continues to come to you in your life through the Word, through the gift of communion, through this community and through the world. I pray dear friends that you may be filled with wonder, with joy, with peace and with hope at the birth of this Child, this Messiah who wants to be birthed in your life every day. Oh, if we only knew what this love of this Savior could do. O, that that the world would know that this child is truly the great I am. Be bold dear friends in what you do know- you are loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.

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