

Meet My Savior: Jesus (Slide 1)

Born Unbroken

Reading: Luke 1:68-79

The title of our lesson should be considered this way;
"born unbroken-undeterred from His mission!"

On December 25th, much of the world celebrates the birth of our *Savior Jesus Christ, Immanuel - "God With Us!"*

The celebration is carried out in many ways but I wonder just how in-depth that many really know Jesus, My Savior?

I think this particular time of the year gives us a great opportunity to speak decisively who Jesus was on earth and who He is today. That is; He is our Savior. He is our intercessor.

Even yet today, He is the One that watches and observes His church with His own eyes just as He did the churches spoken of in the **Revelation: *"I see your works!"***

We've spoken in some depth about His miraculous birth and I just want to take a moment to point out what a blessing it is to be born.

We've had and are expecting the birth of children from young couples who are intimately associated with this congregation and we recognize what a wonderful event that the birth of a child truly is. Some become parents for the first time, some grandparents again while others become aunts or uncles.

In some cases a child becomes their parents firstborn while in other situations the child is the new baby brother or sister. It is a wonderful experience for all offering hope and excitement.

I have several former students who have started their own families. One young lady and her husband have 4 children. Together they make an adorable family!

Just a few days ago, another former student posted the pictures of her and her husband's (also a former student) third child. Just absolutely beautiful! The pictures posted depicted a beautiful child sleeping and the imagery in my mind is that of a little angel. *Born unbroken!*

And I believe babies are born unbroken. Without the ability to understand the complexities of life and the pitfalls of evil. Yet, they don't stay naive, eventually they are broken by the world that they enter as they grow older.

Yet, when we speak of Jesus, His birth, His growth and His life and eventual death, we see our Savior as unbroken from all standpoints and especially when it comes to His purpose.

Galatians 4:4-7 (Slide 2)

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

(Slide 3) ***6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.***

God caused the birth of His only begotten Son to happen ***when the fullness of the time had come.*** In other words, when the time was exactly right. Everything in God's timing.

Perhaps I don't understand everything about His timing, yet, I do know that it was intentional and that we have become eternally blessed because of His birth. And now, as Christians we have an undeniable heritage for which we are known, ***"adoption as sons."***

When one is born into a family they become known by that heritage.

Genesis 5:3-4, 6-7 (Slide 4)

3 And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth. 4 After he begot Seth, the days of Adam were eight hundred years; and he had sons and daughters.

(Slide 5) 6 Seth lived one hundred and five years, and begot Enosh. 7 After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven years, and had sons and daughters.

I certainly believe that as time went on and the earth became more populated and as generation after generation came into being that people would say to Adam's posterity, *"I've heard of your father" or "I've heard of your grandfather, or great grandfather, and the garden."*

Not too many people make comments to me anymore about my parents but on occasion they do and will say, *"I remember your parents. Good people!"*

So we naturally assume the heritage of our parents and grandparents, which can be a great blessing of our birth into the family.

As Christians we have a great blessing in our being born again, our spiritual birth. We have a Savior that was born *unbroken*. Yes, His body was broken on the cross, yet He Himself was never broken. Just prior to His crucifixion He makes this statement while speaking to Pilate:

John 18:36-37 (Slide 6)

36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here."

37 Pilate therefore said to Him, "Are You a king then?"

(Slide 7) ***Jesus answered, "You say rightly that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."***

And because He is and He lives I can face tomorrow! I have peace because He was born and remained unbroken!

He brought truth, He destroyed Satan, He conquered Death, He died for us, He gave us peace, He wasn't deterred, and now we have that natural legacy as adopted sons and daughters! Born unbroken for us!

No one knows the calamity, the heart ache that a person can face, but despite what may come we can have peace.

(Slide 8) *When peace like a river, attendeth my way*

When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say

It is well, it is well, with my soul

“Horatio Gates Spafford” penned the words to this song while traveling to meet up with His grieving wife after losing four daughters in a tragic ship wreck! Peace because Jesus was born unbroken and remained unbroken!!

I’ve spoken of former students who have had their 3rd or 4th child and to see their family portraits on facebook just absolutely warms my heart. Yet, I know a couple of former students who aren’t so fortunate as to include all their children in their family portrait.

They simply post remembrances of their child. Tragically, one couple lost their child from accidental suffocation another couple lost their child in a house fire.

I’m sure so often as with many tragedies that people all over the world experience that finding peace is very difficult. But thanks be to God the Prince of Peace, Jesus

Christ was born. How blessed we are ***“for unto us a child is born, a son is given.”***

“Edward Henry Bickersteth” penned this hymn in the late 1800’s:

(Slide 9) *Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?*

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed?

To do the will of Jesus-this is rest.

(Slide 10) *Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round?*

On Jesus’ bosom naught but calm is found.

Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far away?

(Slide 11) *In Jesus’ keeping we are safe, and they.*

Peace, perfect peace, our future unknown?

Jesus we know, and He is on His throne.

As long as the world stands there will be difficulties. We cannot escape adversity but we can rely on the *“Prince of Peace!”* *Born Unbroken!*

Apostle Paul writes to the church of Ephesus and it's important to note that these folks were going through tremendous struggles and needed encouragement.

Some were imprisoned, some have witnessed their loved ones put to death because of their faith. Apostle Paul writes from a perspective, knowing full well what it's like to be imprisoned, to face torment, to face ridicule, to face death.....

Apostle Paul reminds these Christians over and over again that you are ***"in Christ."*** Perhaps the central theme of Ephesians: *"Remember, you are in Christ!"*

That phrase is used in one form or another, around 15 times in Chapter one. And in Chapter 2 verse 12 He calls attention to where they came from: and he says remember-remember

Ephesians 2:12 (Slide 12)

that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Apostle Paul lists 5 different thoughts about where they once were when they were without Christ-remember this is where you came from.

I think it is important for us who are in Christ to remember where we came from, our state of where we were when we were once without Christ. It brings greater importance, appreciation and clarity for our lives when we remember where we once were and how blessed we are now to no longer be there in that place.

Ephesians 2:13 (Slide 13)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Perhaps a top 10 sentiment of assurance for us as Christians is verse 13. But Apostle Paul doesn't stop there. We need to understand the depth of Jesus Born Unbroken and the great assurance ***"in Christ"*** we have.

Ephesians 2:14 (Slide 14)

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation

Nothing stands in between my soul and peace in Christ because He has torn down the wall that separated us. I have to just be sure not to construct it again!

Let it storm on the outside because within I have peace. When calamity strikes, wars and rumors of wars effectively rule the heart of the uncertain, yet, I have peace.

We need to understand that the text doesn't say that Jesus brings peace, or that He causes peace, though He certainly does.....it says that ***He Himself is our peace***.....

The phrase is known as a *reflexive pronoun* which means the subject and the object of the verb in practicality are the same. It means that the subject is performing an action upon themselves. The power of that statement in this context cannot be held by anyone other than Christ, the Prince of Peace!

The definition of this reflexive phrase is that what is said is easily understood. Jesus is our Peace and that excludes any other form or source of so-called peace.

People go on vacation to find peace but the fact is that peace or separation from reality is temporary. Peace in Christ is constant. Always available, always there!

Why, because Jesus was Born Unbroken and remained unbroken even to the point of death!! He fulfilled His mission!!

Invitation

Ephesians 2:10 (Slide 15)

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

This is a familiar passage of scriptures and a lot could be spoken of based on the context from what is written beforehand. But I just want to focus on one word; ***“workmanship.”***

This word comes from a Greek word where we get the English word, “*poem.*” When we think of a poem or something poetic, it has a composer or a creator. The composer/ creator considers what he/ she has written and observes their work as a “*masterpiece.*”

This is the true meaning of the phrase when Apostle Paul refers to those in Christ as “***His workmanship.***” We are His masterpiece! That is the depth of His feelings for His adopted sons and daughters.

Why not be part of His masterpiece. If we say Jesus' body was broken on the cross it was because of our sin for He Himself was unbroken. But He died to make us whole and we can be whole by putting on Christ in baptism. Choose life today and be baptised.

If we are in Christ, consider that we are His masterpiece. He will care for you in just that way as one who loves His

children, His masterpiece. If you have a need for prayer for whatever reason, please let us know so we may help you, by praying for you.....

Please let your wish be known today.....

Reading

Luke 1:68-79

68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited and redeemed His people,

69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of His servant David,

70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, Who have been since the world began,

71 That we should be saved from our enemies And from the hand of all who hate us,

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers And to remember His holy covenant,

73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.

76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,

77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins,

78 Through the tender mercy of our God, With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

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