Jesus Amidst Junk

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INTRODUCTION

- Nothing devalues a home and your home next door any more than the neighbor who has junk everywhere in their yard.
- It was the December morning, and there it was, a nativity scene.
- They had just constructed a nativity scene because it was December, in the midst of all the junk in their yard. Jesus amidst junk.

1 A Virgin Will Be With Child

Isaiah 7:10–16; Galatians 4

- Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son and shall call his name. Emmanuel.
- This prophecy, in its richest and deepest and fullest fulfillment, comes in the story of Mary, who would literally be a virgin and would conceive by the Holy Spirit.
- God incarnate. God in human flesh.
- It happened in the fullness of the time. Paul says in Galatians chapter 4, all history was pointing to this event.

2 Do You Know the Adult Jesus?

Luke 6:46; Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4

- How much do these same people know about the adult Jesus?
- If we're going to claim to be Christians, we need to know what he said. We need to know the claims that he made.
- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures.
- If you want to boil down the essence of the gospel story, it's not this manger scene, it is the crucifixion.

3 The Refuse of Spiritual Compromise

John 8:31–32; Romans 10:1–3; Acts 17:31

- The refuse of spiritual compromise. The garbage of man's tradition being exalted above the truth of God. The trash of tolerance for sin and for error.
- It's not that they had stopped doing all those things. It's just their hearts weren't in it.
- How many people across this land worship Jesus today, but not in truth.
- They have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge.
- We're only going to please God if we subject ourselves to the righteousness of God.

4 Jesus Amidst Junk in Our Lives

Romans 2:3–4; Ephesians 4:1

- It's easier to see the faults in others.
- Do you think lightly of the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?
- We need to make certain that our lives are not inconsistent with our calling.
- Let's make sure that it's not Jesus amidst junk in our lives.

5 Living Stones Connected to the Chief Cornerstone

1 Peter 2:4–11; Isaiah 28; 2 Corinthians 10:5

- You also, as living stones, are being built up. As a spiritual house for a holy priesthood.
- You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession.
- I've got to build my life in relation to him, and that affects the way that I think. I need to acknowledge him daily.
- If we're not living stones, the tragedy is that Jesus becomes to us a stone of a much worse kind. A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.
- Are we taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ?

THE CHALLENGE

We must not be content with Jesus amidst junk. He's worthy of more. He wants our all.

MY NOTES