

SERMON FOCUS: I must be ready when the King stands

SERMON FUNCTION: The hearer will use the Christmas holiday to reflect on looking forward to Christ's return.

BACKGROUND: Micah wrote in about 700 B.C. to a nation that was rejecting God. They were going to face bad times, but on the other side of those bad times, there is hope in the Messiah. Let's look at that hope today.

SCRIPTURE READING: Micah 5:2-5a

INTRODUCTION:

What does our position say about what we are doing or going to do? What if we are lying down? Sitting at a table? On a couch? On the floor? What about if we are standing? Today, we are going to look at three major positions of Jesus and what they mean for us. Particularly, we're going to look at what a baby lying in a manger meant to us; what it means to have an intercessor seated at the right hand of God, and what it means to have a Shepherd stand to lead us.

MESSAGE:

1. A BABY LYING IN A MANGER

- a. He took on helplessness to understand our helplessness.
 - i. No one is more helpless than a baby. Particularly a poor baby. Their gift at the Temple dedication showed how poor they were.
 - ii. Baby Jesus had to rely on Mary and Joseph for feeding and protection. Joseph and Mary, in turn, had to rely on God during their time on the run.
 - iii. Baby Jesus had to grow and learn. (Luke 2:40) "The boy grew up and became strong, filled with wisdom, and God's grace was on him."
- b. He took on temptation to understand our temptation.
 - i. (Heb. 4:15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin.
 - ii. That forty days of temptation was brutal. And I do not think that this was the last time he was tempted.
- c. He took on hunger, pain, torture, and even death for our benefit.
- d. After His death for our sins and His resurrection, took His seat at the right hand of God the Father.

2. AN INTERCESSOR SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

- a. (Romans 8:34) "Christ Jesus is the one who died, but even more, has been raised; he also is at the right hand of God and intercedes for us."
- b. His position in the throne room is one of great power. But it is a seated position. But, He will stand and return.

3. A SHEPHERD WHO WILL STAND AND LEAD HIS PEOPLE

- a. (Micah 5:4) He will stand and shepherd them in the strength of the Lord.
 - b. When the Shepherd stands with us and leads us, we will have security.
 - c. We may not feel like we have security now, but we do.
 - i. Security of position as children of God.
 - ii. Security of life, even though we will likely experience death.
 - iii. Security of knowing that the King born in the manger knows us and has called us to Him.
 - d. When our King, born in Bethlehem, but existing from eternity past stands, we must be ready.
4. THE GOSPEL IN SIMPLE FORM (adapted from Dr. James Merritt).
- a. Bad News: We are all sinners separated from God.
 - b. Worst News: There is nothing we can do about our sin problem.
 - c. Good News: Christ did for us what we cannot do for ourselves.
 - d. Best News: Salvation and eternal life are a free gift, but you must receive it.

FOUR QUESTIONS:

1. What do you hear God saying to you?
2. What keeps you from doing that?
3. If you were to do that, what might be a good first step?
4. Who are you going to tell?

INVITATION HYMN # 282 Living for Jesus