



Wayne's Words

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The Heart of the Matter (Luke 2.1-20, Matthew 2.1-12)

The birth of Jesus touches our hearts at many levels.

We are all moved by news of a baby's birth. The miracle of procreation, the innocence and vulnerability of the newborn, so dependant on the mother's body and nurturing love, the continuation of the family in a new generation - a sign of hope.

The birth of Jesus has the added wonder of the poverty and simplicity of the couple and the humble context in which Jesus was born; the fulfillment of the angel's word to the virgin girl; the contrast of the unexpected visitors - the lowly shepherds and later, the noble magi. There is also the deadly threat to the child through the obsessive and cruel jealousy of the paranoid King Herod, averted by the timely warning of the angel and Joseph's prompt action.

The abundant pathos and drama of this story takes on even greater import when we reflect that this is God entering the world he has made, to live among the people to whom he had entrusted the earth and all the life that it sustains. God who created us and who for millennia had wooed the people of earth, longing for their response of love and faithful obedience to his abundant unfathomable generosity and provision for their every conceivable need. The God who placed within us the longing for eternity, for meaning, purpose and consistent love beyond that of which humans are capable.

This God would stop at nothing to reach us. Literally. For this life, begun in humble circumstances and quickly threatened, would continue to draw the jealousy and hatred of those who refused to face up to the evil within their own hearts. Yet it is the incurable nature of the human heart, deceived and bruised and infected by sin, that Jesus came to heal. The heart of the problem is the problem of the heart. The solution to our wayward hearts is the faithful, pure love of God prepared to die in our place so that our sins could be forgiven, washed away, and our guilt removed!

Greater love has no one than this – it is a love in which we will always be safe and which we can trust completely. As you adore the baby, dare to give your allegiance to the man, who incredibly is God—crucified and risen! A simple, humble, life changing prayer from the heart will set you on your way - on Jesus' Way.

'O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him ... Christ the Lord!

God bless you,

Wayne