

Intro: In Rom 13:7 the bible tells us to "...give honor to whom honor is due!" That is what we see God the Father doing for Jesus as Jesus in obedience to the eternal will of God steps across the threshold of heaven and into the world in which we live. In John 1:1 John said "He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him!"

Jesus, during His earthly life was never honored by men the way He should have been. Yet...at His birth...the Father made sure that His Son was honored the way He should be honored.

This morning we continue our Christmas series "Fit For A King" by talking about "Honor Fit For A King" as we see Jesus being honored by the Father through the events surrounding His birth.

Def: Honor: *to show reverence, admiration, or esteem for one deserving of respect, attention or obedience*

1. The Father Honored Jesus By Working In Extraordinary Ways To Announce His Birth.
2. The Father Honored Jesus By Elevating Ordinary Events Surrounding His Birth.
3. The Father Honored Jesus By Speaking To And Through Ordinary People At Jesus Birth.

If you have your bibles turn with me to Luke 1

1. The Father Honored Jesus By Working In Extraordinary Ways To Announce His Birth.

Maybe YOUR life and experience is different, but I don't typically have angels showing up at my house or office to make a grand announcement! I can honestly say that never in my entire life has a heavenly host of angels shown up singing...in fact...there has never even been 1! Maybe I have entertained an angel unaware...as bible says.. That isn't the case with Jesus birth. Angels seem to be EVERYWHERE! And not just angels...Gabriel, archangel...BUSY!

- Zechariah: Father of John the Baptist Luke 1:8-9 Gabriel came to announce birth of forerunner of Jesus
- Mary: Human mother of Jesus Luke 1:26-33 Gabriel came to announce the coming birth of Jesus
- Joseph: Human father of Jesus Matt: 1:18-25 An angel came to ease Joseph's mind about Jesus
- Shepherds: Announce to others Luke 2:8-14 An angel, then whole HOST of angels

There is no where else in the biblical record where you see angelic activity of this magnitude. Angels are special messengers of God, and it is a very unusual event to see an angel show up. When you see it, most often it is a single occurrence...it is NOT something where you see them arriving on the scene multiple times...UNTIL the birth of Jesus

Applic: So what? What does that have to do with us today? EVERYTHING: YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD AS WELL, AND IT IS OK FOR YOU TO ASK GOD TO WORK IN YOUR LIFE IN EXTRAORDINARY WAYS...JUST LIKE HE DID WITH JESUS!

"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." 1 John 3:1-2

Maybe today you NEED God to show up in EXTRAORDINARY WAYS...Then ASK Him to do that for you! God knows your needs...and He LOVES you just like He loved Jesus. The bible says we have not because we ask not...so if you are in need today...ask Him! Jesus told us the story of an earthly father giving his son bread...and not a stone when he was hungry...then He said...HOW MUCH MORE....does your Father in heaven love YOU! Your heavenly Father WANTS to bless...He wants to provide...He wants to encourage and strengthen. So ASK Him Today for what you need!

Applic: Heb 4:14-16 Let us come BOLDLY! What do you need to come to God seeking today?

End of service come Pray Go to Prayer Tent Come pray with me Find a Friend: Will you Pray

2. The Father Honored Jesus by Elevating Ordinary Events Surrounding His Birth.

In 1 Sam 2:30 the God says this. *"Those who honor me I will honor!"* When Jesus honored God in obedience by coming into this world...taking on human flesh, living a perfect life and dying on the cross for our sin, God honored Him at both at the beginning of His life at His birth, and the end of His life through the Resurrection.

You also see the Father honor the Son in many of the everyday, ordinary events surrounding Jesus birth. God reached into those Ordinary events and ELEVATED them! He empowered them with His Spirit, He worked through them to accomplish His perfect purpose. He Honored His Son

- Lk 1:5-7 Struggles of Life Infertility of Zechariah and Elizabeth
God honored their faithfulness, Used the trials: Elevated them!
God made all that pain, all that hurt, all that struggle mean something
2Cor 1:3-4 *Comforts us so we comfort others! He elevated her pain!*
- Lk 1:57-66 Obedience: Naming of John Baptist: Obedience leads to healing...and testimony
God honoring Son! God used obedience to honor Himself and His son
- Lk 1:39-45 Kindness: Elizabeth welcoming Mary: Imagine what was being said: Young/Unmarried
Mary needed SOMEONE...God worked to provide that in advance
John Baptist didn't HAVE to be born to Zechariah/Elizabeth 100's priests!
- Lk 1:39-45 Baby Moves: Elizabeth pregnant: Mary visits: Always amazing: It takes on an entirely
different meaning! Elevated! God uses that to honor Himself and His Son
- Lk 2:1-7 Caesar Edict Joseph return to Bethlehem Fulfill Prophecy: Honor Son
Prov 21:1 *Heart of King in hand of Lord!* God is working thru Government

Applic: God wants to ELEVATE the ORDINARY events of your life as well...He will do that if you will be open to it!

- a. **Struggles:** Make your struggles MEAN something: Move from WHY...To WHO and WHAT?
- b. **Obedience:** Work through your obedience to bless you and others. last week about the small acts of obedience
If you will pay attention to that still, small, quiet voice calling you to walk with Him, obey Him, amazed His Work
- c. **Kindness:** Gal 5 lists KINDNESS as one of the fruits of the Spirit! When you are filled with the Spirit of God you are
KIND! God will use that...In today's world we NEED kindness! Everyone so stressed, tired, empty: KINDNESS
- d. **Every day,** ordinary things we take for granted, like the moving of a baby...God can work through to do amazing
things! We look for Him in the big events...in the Thunder, Lightening, Windstorm...Like Elijah on Mount
But God was in the Still, small quiet voice!
Some of the most PROFOUND things I have ever heard from God...Came in quietness
- e. **God is still in charge...**even when it doesn't feel like it! Imagine the conversation all over Israel...Can you believe
what Caesar is doing NOW! Everyone has to travel...This is the stupidest thing ever...No...it was the Hand of
God working through him to accomplish God's eternal plan!

He wants to do those things in YOUR life if you will SLOW DOWN...LOOK...LISTEN...God wants to ELEVATE YOUR
ORDINARY and make it EXTRAORDINARY! You just have to be open to it. Ask Him For it. Walk in it!

3. God Spoke Extraordinary Things Through Ordinary People!

God used the ordinary people surrounding the birth of His Son to Elevate that birth and honor His Son! Asked Siri the
other day, cumulative total of all the people that have ever lived on earth. 100-120 BILLION! And yet...one out of 100
billion or so were announced by Angels, surrounded by ordinary events made special and had EXTRAORDINARY things
spoken about them at their birth! God is honoring His Son!

- Mary: Lk 1:46-48 God SEES me! Looked on my humble estate!
Think about that...GOD SEES ME! And here is the good news...He SEES you too!
Illus: Jenn's sparrow tattoos God sees you!
- Zechariah: Lk 1:67-68 God WORKS on my behalf! Visited and Redeemed; Saved;
Illus: Not only does God see us...He COMES TO us....He REDEEMS us...SAVES us
God is at work on your behalf as well! He is present with you...He is redeeming...working...often unseen
Ruth: Ch 1-3 Story is told...Ch 3 Ruth and Boaz have met...but he left..seems like all is lost Ch 4 MEANWHILE
- Simeon: Lk 2:29-32 God's GRACE is for EVERYONE! Light to Gentiles
God honors His Son by telling the whole world...YOU ARE WELCOME to come to me...Jew, Gentile, Greek..
The ground is level at the foot of the cross...Come to me all who are burdened and heavy laden, I give REST
- Shepherds: Lk 2:17 When they saw Him they made know what angels had told them
God is still doing that today...through ordinary people sharing the extraordinary message of Jesus birth

CONCL: What Do you need today?

- ❖ God to work in extraordinary ways? Come ASK Him to do what you need!
- ❖ God to Elevate the ordinary events of your life so they make a difference: Offer your pain, struggles
Look for where He is at work...He is there if you will just look for Him
- ❖ God is still speaking through ordinary people today: Don't worry...He will give you what you need