

We'll be looking briefly at the 2 Bible passages just read.

There are Bibles in front of you - if you want to follow where we're going - and there's a sermon outline - if you're a person who likes to take notes.

Let me ask God - to help our understanding - before we begin

Intro

A story to begin with - not sure where the story came from originally

There was once a farmer who was very skeptical about God and God's Son Jesus

The farmer's wife however did believe in Jesus and brought the children up to have faith in Jesus

Sometimes the farmer gave his wife a hard time about her faith - and mocked her - especially when she went to church at Christmas time

"It's all nonsense" he would say "why would God lower Himself and become a human being like us? It's such a ridiculous story"

One snowy Christmas Day, the farmer's wife and children left for church while he stayed home. Not long after they left - the winds grew stronger and stronger and there was severe snowstorm - a blizzard set in.

As he sat down next to the fire with a cuppa to relax

He heard a loud thump - as something hit the window

He ran outside to find a **flock of geese** - who'd been **flying south** for warmer weather - only to **run into** this snow blizzard

The **snow storm** was too **blinding** and **violent** for the **geese** to fly or **see the way** they were **going**. So, they were now **stranded** on his farm - with **no food** and **no shelter**.

They fluttered their wings and **flew low** to the ground and **around in circles**.

The **farmer** had **compassion** on them and **wanted to help them**

He **thought to himself** - the **barn** would be a great place for them to stay - it's **warm and safe** - they could stay there until the next day - when the storm calms down

So, he **opened the barn** for them.

He waited and watched - **hoping the geese** would **notice the open barn** and go inside

But they **didn't notice the barn** - or realize what the **barn** could mean for them

So, he **moved closer** to them - but **they just moved away** from him - too afraid to come near him

He grabbed some **bread** from inside the **house** and made a **bread trail** to the barn - but still the **geese didn't catch on**

So, then he **tried shoing** them towards the barn - but **they just panicked** and **scattered** in every direction except the barn

Feeling **frustrated** he cried out to himself "Why **don't they follow me?** Can't they see the barn is the **only safe place** they can survive the storm?"

Then he thought "The **only way I can save these geese** is for me to **become like** these **geese**. Then I could save them. They would **follow me** and I would **lead them to safety**"

At that moment the farmer realized what he was thinking

Then - at last - he understood God's love for humankind - and understood - that's why God became a human being - in the form of Jesus - to save people - like the farmer wanted to save the geese

The Word Became Flesh (Luke 2:1-14)

Which brings us to our NT Bible reading in Luke 2:1-21

Just like the farmer cared about the Geese

God - cared for humankind - and intervened in human history

It's around about 2,020 years or so ago - about 4BC

And **God** has been **silent** for **400 years** - there has been **no prophecy** or **revelation** from **God** - for all that time

Then **God** - in the **previous chapter** - **Luke 1** - announces to a **virgin** called **Mary** - that she will have a **special son** - **Jesus** - the **Son of God** - and He will be a **Saviour**

A **Saviour** is someone who **saves** people **from danger**

The **danger** that the **people** in **Israel** at the time were in - and the **danger** we **all** are in - is the **danger** of our **sin** and **rebellion** **against God**

When we **break God's rules** and **disobey** Him - and when we **don't follow** Him - like the **geese** in the story **wouldn't follow** the **farmer** - and when we **reject** the **safety God offers** - which is **Jesus** - like the geese rejected the offer of help from the farmer - then we are in **danger**

In **danger** of being **lost without God forever** - and that **leads to death** - just like the **geese would die** without safety from the snowstorm - **we will die without safety** from the snowstorm and **blizzard** of the **sinful lives** we lead

In Luke 2:7 - **God steps into history to rescue** humankind - in the **form a baby boy** - wrapped in **cloths** and in a **manger** - an animal **feeding trough**

Hardly the place for *God's Son* - the King of Kings -

But it shows He will be **humble** and **servant like** - and that He's come to make Himself **available to ALL** who are **lost from God**

He's born in a **stable** because there is **no room** for Him to be born anywhere else

And still **today** - there's **no room for Him** in people's lives

They're **too busy celebrating Christmas** - without the **main character** - and without the **ONE** who **invented Christmas** - without the **ONE** who is the **precious gift of Christmas**

It's laughable isn't it - people can be real geese - or geese - can't they?
(pause)

What we need to understand is that *God's Son* - *Jesus* - is actually the **Word of God** - in **flesh form**.

Let me explain...

When **God created the Earth** in the beginning - He created it by **speaking His Word**

The **Bible** later **describes Jesus** - as the **Word of God** (John 1:1)

So, **God's Word** created everything and **Jesus is the Word of God** - so it means **Jesus was there at the time of Creation** - and it was Jesus who **created everything**

And on that very 1st Christmas Day the Word of God - Jesus - became a human being - Jesus became human flesh - as John 1:14 says - [the Word \[Jesus\] became flesh and made his dwelling among us.](#)

God's Word - in flesh form - living with people

On the night **Jesus was born in Bethlehem**

An **Angel** - 2:9 - appeared to some shepherds in the fields of Bethlehem

And the Angel said - v10 - Do not be afraid - I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy** for all the people

It's not just good news - it's the **best news** - God has put in place His **rescue plan** - to **save people from their sin and rebellion against God** - a sin and rebellion that has them **lost from God** - and in **danger** of being **lost from God forever** - and **away from God forever**

And **God doesn't want that** for anyone - just like the **farmer** didn't want anything to happen to the geese

So, God made His Word - Jesus - human flesh - to bring about a great rescue mission - which looks like this:

- Baby Jesus will grow up
- He will teach people how to follow Him and believe in Him
- He will teach people how to live a life pleasing to God
- He will take away the punishment for sin and rebellion against God - which is death
- By dying Himself on a cruel cross and taking the blame and punishment for people's sin - and instead giving people forgiveness of their sins

- And then He will be raised to life 3 days later - to give people the gift of also not dying - but living forever with God - in a safe barn called Heaven

But people do have a choice - just like the geese - people have a choice - whether they accept the rescue offered them
(pause)

Responses (Luke 2:15-21)

So, how are we to respond to God's rescue plan - this morning?

1. 1st response - be like the shepherds - 2:15 - and **go check out this baby Jesus - for ourselves**. And see if He really is who He says He is. Spend some quality time with Jesus. Remember He's the Word of God in flesh form. Now - Jesus is not here on Earth anymore - He returned to Heaven after His resurrection. So how can we spend time with Him today?

Let me explain how with another story:

*It was 1898 and **Ben** had left the **East** side of America **8 years ago** to head out **West** in the hope of **making his fortune**. Well he wasn't rich, but he had accumulated over **300 acres of good land** and built a comfortable **farm house** on it. He **grew wheat, corn**, and all of his **vegetables**. He had managed to build his herd of **cattle** to over **200** head. Having accomplished all of this in only 8 years, he decided that it was now time.*

*The **ad** that he placed in the New York **newspaper** said, "**Wanted: A good woman** willing to be a **pen pal**. **Marriage** is a **possibility** for the*

right woman." Before long, he began **receiving letters** from a lady called **Molly**. Their correspondence soon **turned into love** for each other. Now, here he stood in the **Kansas City train station** waiting to finally meet her.

When the train arrived, there were a lot of women getting off. Suddenly, he yelled, "**Molly -- over here!**"

She looked his way, walked over to him, smiled and held out her hand. He took it for a moment, then let it go. She said, "**How did you know who I was?**"

He then reached into the back **pocket** of his overalls and said, "From **these letters.**"

"But there are **no pictures** in them." She said.

He dropped his head a bit and said, "Oh **yes there are!** There are **lots of pictures in your words.**"

You see, he had spent hours reading every word -- looking for every little clue that would tell him who Molly really was. He had **fallen in love with her words** -- words that had **painted** her **portrait**.

God's precious **word** paints a vivid **portrait** of who **Jesus** is. We as His bride should **fall in love with His word** so that we can **then fall in love with its author**.

[From: *Many A Tear Has to Fall* by Wayne Hudson, Padon Press]

Friends, if we are **as diligent** in **reading God's word** - like **Ben read** those **pen letters** - we will **fall in love with Jesus**.

2. 2nd response - when the Shepherds heard what the angel said and visited baby Jesus. The shepherds were convinced Jesus was/is the Saviour from God. They were so convinced of who Jesus is - see 2:17 - they **spread the word about who Jesus** is to everyone they met.

Are **we game** to do that - or is that a little **embarrassing** or **uncomfortable** for us?

I bet **we'll tell people** this Christmas - **what presents we got?**

Or what **we did** on **Christmas Day?**

Let me challenge us this morning:

If people ask us what we got for Christmas - dare we say we received the best gift anyone could possibly have - Jesus

If people ask us what we did over Christmas - dare we say we went to church and heard about the most amazing rescue mission ever - God became a human being to save people who were lost and away from Him

3. 3rd response - be like Mary - when she saw and heard all that went on - on that glorious night - she **treasured all those things** [treasured here literally means preserved so they never get lost - because the thing we are preserving is so precious - it's like treasure - God's Word is like a Treasure chest - or a gold mine of one treasured truth and promise after another] - and **Mary also pondered them in her heart** [Pondered here literally means - come together in one's mind - so as Mary heard all this info about Jesus - it all started to come together in her mind - that's the same for us as we read **God's Word** - and see how it all **connects** - **pennies are dropping** everywhere

and it starts to **blow our mind** - how awesome God is - and how perfect Jesus is - and why we would should want to be like Him]

Conclusion - God's Final Word (Heb 1:1-4)

To finish up then

As our 2nd reading from **Hebrews 1:1-4** tells us:

Before Jesus was born - **God sent prophet** after prophet in the **OT** - to tell people to **turn back to God** - and **turn away from their sins**

And God **promised a Saviour** in the OT.

Then God was **silent for 400 years**

And then - **God sent His Word - Jesus** - as a human being - that 1st Christmas

Jesus is God's final word

God doesn't have to say any more

Jesus is the meaning and answer to life.

Perhaps a way to explain Jesus to people is as simple as this

We have a **gift box from God under the Christmas Tree** - **inside the box is Jesus**

Like any gift we receive at Christmas

We can **choose** to **open** the gift of Jesus

Or **leave** the gift of Jesus **unopened**

Don't be a goose!

Let's pray.