

“Two Kings, Three Simple Words”

Luke 2

“8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Luke 2:8-12 (NIV)

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“We Got Him!”

They’re just three simple words, spoken of an infamous dictator, a vicious tyrant, an evil king. Those are the words declared last Sunday when the Iraqi Civil Administrator Paul Bremer made the announcement of Saddam Hussein’s capture. “We got him!”

What is the significance of these three words?

President Bush on Sunday said the capture of toppled Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was good news for the Iraqi people.

"Now he will face the justice he denied to millions," Bush said during a five-minute formal television address.

"For the vast majority of Iraqi citizens who wish to live as free men and women, this event brings further assurance that the torture chambers and the secret police are gone forever," Bush said.

"This afternoon I have a message for the Iraqi people: You will not have to fear the rule of Saddam Hussein ever again," adding a warning. "The capture of Saddam Hussein does not mean the end of violence in Iraq."

“You will not have to fear.” Isn’t that the real significance of this historical event? The demise of this King, Saddam Hussein, means “you will not have to fear.”

There’s three other words that I’d like to focus on this morning. “Jesus is born.” Amazing how two sets of three simple words can have such different implications, such different meanings. There’s not much similarity between Jesus and Saddam. In fact, they are so totally opposite as to almost defy comparison.

- ?? Saddam’s rule was one of self-aggrandizement; Jesus’ rule was one of emptying Himself of all glory of God.
- ?? Saddam’s rule brought widespread death and mass destruction; Jesus’ birth brought worldwide salvation for all people fo all times;
- ?? Saddam was a “homicidal maniac;” Jesus was the Savior of mankind;
- ?? Saddam’s rule was militarily enforced; Jesus’ rule is simply an invitation of grace to enter our hearts;
- ?? When people saw Saddam, they saw hatred in its worst manifestation; when people saw Jesus, they saw a gentle child, a loving Lord.

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Two kings as different as different can be. But the three simple words really have somewhat a common message. The significance of those three words “We Got Him,” is “you will not have to fear.” The significance of the three simple words, “Jesus is born!” is much the same. Listen to the angel.

“Fear not, for unto you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you. You shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

The coalition forces found Saddam in a spider hole, disheveled, unshaven, and truly humbled. This sight signaled one unmistakably message: “There is no more fear.”

When the shepherds found Jesus, lying in a hay feeder, they saw a Jesus truly humbled...not because He was hiding, not because He was fearful, but because He loved you and me. Because of this love, because of His grace, “you will not have to fear.”

Today, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. But, most importantly, we celebrate the demise of fear...not of the evil maniac, Saddam Hussein, but the demise of the Author of Evil himself, Satan.

And, to think of it, isn't it amazing that even though it took hundreds of thousands of coalition troops and nine months to apprehend Saddam and to finally bring down the final traces of his regime? Indeed, it is.

But even more amazing is that all it took was a Baby to bring down Satan and his power over us. A Baby is the victor. A Baby is the Savior. Our salvation is now won.

“Jesus is born.” These are more than just words. They are our lives. “Joy to the World! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King!”

Will you receive Him?

And here's another goodie .... a little rough as writing goes ... :-)) but the message is still there.

'T'was the night before Christmas and all through the town  
Not a sign of Baby Jesus was anywhere to be found.  
The people were all busy with Christmas time chores  
Like decorating, and baking, and shopping in stores.

No one sang "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed".  
Instead, they sang of Santa dressed-up in bright red.  
Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa drank beer from a tap.  
As hour upon hour the presents they'd wrap

When what from the T.V. did they suddenly hear?  
'Cept an ad.. which told of a big sale at Sears.  
So away to the mall they all flew like a flash...  
Buying things on credit... and others with cash!

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And, as they made their way home From their trip to the mall,  
Did they think about Jesus? Oh, no... not at all.  
Their lives were so busy with their Christmas time things  
No time to remember Christ Jesus, the King.

There were presents to wrap and cookies to bake.  
How could they stop and remember who died for their sake?  
To pray to the Savior... they had no time to stop.  
Because they needed more time to "Shop til they dropped!"

On Wal-mart! On K-mart! On Target! On Penney's!  
On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's  
From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall  
They would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!

And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter  
As grandpa hung icicle lights up on his brand new step ladder.  
He hung lights that would flash. He hung lights that would twirl.  
Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus... Light of the World.

Christ's eyes... how they twinkle! Christ's Spirit... how merry!  
Christ's love... how enormous! All our burdens... He'll carry!  
So instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight  
Let's put Christ back in Christmas and enjoy some good nights!

Let's put Christ back into Christmas. And let's celebrate it with three simple words, "Jesus Is Born!"

