

Christmas Day 2008-B

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. John 1:3,4, NRSV.

On this day of days, in the humblest of places, God became a baby. His birth would change the world forever.

In a stable where the lowly animals lay their heads, a chosen woman and her betrothed gaze down lovingly at their new baby. They are filled with joy and wonder as they look on this child, laying in straw and wrapped in rags. Their lives would never be the same... *Our lives would never be the same.*

From these meager surroundings, a baby would become Christ the King; to walk in humility and show the way of Light for the entire world to see.

Born in humility, and poverty; scorned by most that lived at that time. He lived with trials so great that most cannot even comprehend how difficult His life was. And yet the spirit of God was with Him and gave Him totally to the world.

As Mary looked down on the baby Jesus could she ever imagine how this miraculous birth would touch all those that heard the story even centuries later...

Mary did you Know?

Is a popular song written by Mark Lowry and put to music by Buddy Greene and it asks questions both of Mary and of us:

*Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy
on water?* *would one day walk*

*Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy
sons and daughters?* *would save our*

*Did you know that your Baby Boy
new?* *has come to make you*
*This Child that you delivered
you.* *will soon deliver*

*Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy* *will give sight to*

*a blind man?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy
storm with His hand?*

will calm the

*Did you know that your Baby Boy
where angels trod?
When you kiss your little Baby
face of God?*

*has walked
you kissed the*

Mary did you know?,

*The blind will see.
The deaf will hear.
The dead will live again.
The lame will leap.
The dumb will speak
The praises of The Lamb.*

*Mary did you know?
that your Baby Boy is*

*Lord of all creation?
Mary, did you know
that your Baby Boy
one day rule the nations?*

would

*Did you know
that your Baby Boy
heaven's perfect Lamb?
The sleeping Child you're holding*

is

is the Great, I Am.

In reflecting on the two passages containing prologues about the Word of God I think about how the writers pieced together for us the creation story in Genesis and of the coming of Christ. Jesus is the express image of God, and is with God from the beginning. God became a baby on this day. He became one of us. I am reminded what someone said about my son, Ben when he came to visit on Thanksgiving Day: "You're the spittin' image of your father."

In *THE ARRIVAL*, author Max Lucado, writes: "He looks like anything but a king. His face is prunish and red. His cry, though strong and healthy, is still the helpless and piercing cry of a baby. And he is absolutely dependent upon Mary for his well-being.

Majesty in the midst of the mundane. Holiness in the filth of sheep manure and sweat. Divinity entering the world on the floor of a stable, through the womb of a teenager and in the presence of a carpenter.

She touches the face of the infant-God. How long was your journey!

This baby had overlooked the universe. These rags keeping him warm were the robes of eternity. His golden throne room had been abandoned in favor of a dirty sheep pen. And worshiping angels had been replaced with kind but bewildered shepherds.

Meanwhile, the city hums. The merchants are unaware that God has visited their planet. The innkeeper would never believe that he had just sent God into the cold. And the people would scoff at anyone who told them the Messiah lay in the arms of a teenager on the outskirts of their village. They were all too busy to consider the possibility.

Those who missed His Majesty's arrival that night missed it not because of evil acts or malice; no, they missed it because they simply weren't looking. Little has changed in the last two thousand years, has it?"

May we all keep the wonder and the miracle of Christ's birth in our hearts, not only at Christmas....but always. Amen

Mark Lowry is best known as a singer and comedian. In 1984 his church asked him if he willing to write a musical for Advent. He gladly agreed. Inspiration came as Lowry focused his heart and mind on the wonder of Christmas. Six years later, a musical virtuoso Buddy Greene supplied just the right music and "Mary, Did You Know?" was complete.