

## The Person & Work of God the Son Study 3

If we are to really understand the Person & Work of Jesus, God the Son, we must ask ourselves why it is that Jesus, the *Greatest* of all chose to live His life as the *least* of all. For example, the apostle Paul tells us that...

*"You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross." ~ Philippians 2:5-8*

So let's look at some of the ways that Jesus chose to live His life on earth with the goal of discerning *why* He did so, and *how* we should respond.

### 1) His birth (read Luke 2:1-7)

Why do you think God would choose such an uncomfortable and dirty place (a stable & a saliva-stained feeding trough!) vs. a nice clean medical facility as the place for His Son to be born?

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If you knew about Jesus' birth and met Him by the Sea of Galilee would that knowledge make you insecure when thinking about the nature of your own birth—why?

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### 2) The location of His birth

At the time of Jesus' birth Bethlehem was just a small village with a population of no more than 3,000 people. The magnificent city of Jerusalem with its beautiful palaces, walls and the Jewish Temple was just 5 miles away.

Psalm 87 tells us that it is an honor to be born in Jerusalem. So why do you think God didn't choose Jerusalem, the "city of kings", as the birthplace for His Son?

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### Study 3

- 2) The location of His birth (continued)

If you were a Jew living in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century would you be envious of, or intimidated by a person born in Bethlehem—why?

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- 3) What were the Jewish leaders implying about the circumstance surrounding Jesus' conception when they said this...

*"We were not born of fornication; we have one Father—God." ~ John 8:41b*

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Why would anyone have questions about the identity of Jesus' earthly father?

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Regardless of the circumstances surrounding your own conception would you feel self-conscience, or embarrassed about yourself around a person with Jesus' reputation—why?

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- 4) What do we know about the following people in Jesus' lineage?

Tamar (the mother of Perez & Zerah) \_\_\_\_\_

Rahab \_\_\_\_\_

Ruth \_\_\_\_\_

Bathsheba \_\_\_\_\_

- 5) Why do you think God planned for His Son to be born in a barn, in a tiny town, under scandalous circumstances, and with a shady lineage? And how does all of that influence the way you relate to Jesus?

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