

## Transcript\* - Pastor John Enabnit - 12/21/2025

Good morning, church. I am John and I am one of the pastors here. I am welcoming you in the house and those of you that are online. God bless all of you. So let's imagine that this afternoon, an alien from outer space lands in your backyard and you become good friends and you take him around, show him all the sights in being a few days before Christmas.

There's lots of activity. The stores are full. There's a lot of Christmas music being played in restaurants, stores, even in bathrooms, you know, and commercial places. You can't get away from it. People are sending Christmas cards and buying gifts and going to parties, you know, at home, at work, in the office, at church, wherever they're decorating their the outside of their houses with lights, or they've got blow up Santa Clauses, you know, and and even a big blow up Grinch.

And the alien says, look, that's my cousin when he sees the Grinch. So. And the aliens kind of puzzled by by all of this activity, says, what in the world is going on? Why? Why is everything so crowded? Why is there so much happening? And and this would be your opportunity to share this story of the birth of Christ.

Amen. You could talk about the Nativity and the miraculous birth of Jesus to Joseph and Mary. And, the aliens would scratch one of his three heads because he's got three heads, you understand? And he he would say, I just don't get it. I don't get how how a baby, you say a baby born 20 centuries ago and the other side of the world is actually stopping traffic at the mall today.

That's what you're trying to tell me? I think the alien would be confused. In fact, I think a lot of people, even today, are confused about Christmas and what it really means. People who celebrated people who decorate their trees and do all the Christmasy stuff. I wonder if a lot of people really grasp the significance of Christmas now.

I, I, for example, I no longer wish people a merry Christmas because it kind of cuts both ways. Some people love it, some people hate it. So instead, what I say to people is may the birth of the one and only true God, the Lord Jesus Christ, bring a blessing of joy and peace upon your home to the little mind of every other false religion.

That's what I say to people. There's there's there's no ambiguity on that one.

So what I want, what I want to do in this message to talk to you about the enduring power of Christmas and what it means and why it matters. And you got to ask the question, how in the world could the birth of a baby in a backwater country in ancient times, in the humblest of circumstances, how could that one birth possibly have changed the world?

And so my aim in this message is to share with you three words that I think really encapsulate the power of Christmas and what it means and why it matters. Three words. Here's the first word incarnation. Say that word back to me. Incarnation essentially means that God, who is spirit, who lives outside of space and time at a moment in history, entered into our world in space and time, in flesh and blood.

God incarnated himself as a human, as a baby, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth, it eventually dying on the cross at age 33. And that body, that person we know as Jesus of Nazareth. I'm telling you today that I cannot overstate the importance of God becoming a human. This miraculous event where the supernatural invaded our world and became like one of us.

Matthew verse chapter one verse 23 says, they will call him Emmanuel, which means read the rest with me. God is with us. Say that again. Not God above us, not God around us, not God watching over us like a heavenly security camera. But God is with us. And I want you to know, in my opinion, this is an opinion now that we as Christians can disagree about a lot of things in the Bible, we can disagree on eschatology what your end time viewpoints are.

We can disagree about the eternal security of the believer. We can disagree about speaking in tongues. There's 100 issues in the Bible that, in my opinion, are negotiable. There is a non-negotiable and this is one of them. You cannot in any way disbelieve that God became a man and still be a true believer. You must accept this and confess this and adhere to this, and rely upon the fact that God was incarnate in Christ.

He was deity. He was humanity. Jesus fully God and fully man simultaneously. And you must confess this and believe this if you expect to be saved and go to heaven. That's about as clear as I know how to make it. This morning. The deity of Jesus Christ, listen to me, is the watershed of Christian doctrine. It is the central issue.

The deity of Jesus Christ. John says in chapter one, verse 14 that the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. The message paraphrase says that God moved into our neighborhood. Jesus became fully human, fully God, and fully human. He was born like all of us are born in the birth canal of his

mother. As a baby, he was fed like where we were fed, diapered like we were diapered, trained, nurtured, raised up like all of us.

Like it happened. All of us. He got tired, like all of us now. A teacher once asked her small Sunday school young children. She said, well, what do you think baby Jesus was like? You ever thought about that? What do you think baby Jesus was like? One little boy said, well, he walked right away. I'm sure of that, right?

I'm sure he did. And another, a little girl said he never cried. In. And another child said he probably glowed. No, he didn't glow. Okay. He he was fully human, fully divine, fully human. Mary didn't put him to bed with his halo as a nightlight. Jesus wasn't born in some sanitized hospital with essential oil diffusers in soft music playing in the background.

He was born in the stable, in a barn, in a messy, noisy, inconvenient, uncomfortable environment. And we romanticize the birth of Jesus. How many of you have ever been to a petting zoo? Anybody here? Ever been to a petting zoo? That's what the first Christmas smelled like. Okay. Like that? People sometimes say, oh, I love the smells of Christmas.

And by that, I think what they mean is the cinnamon and the pine and the freshly baked cookies. Hey, guess what? The first Christmas Eve smell like? Goats. That's what it was like. And that's how God showed up. That's how he announced himself. Jesus was born at a messy time and a messy place, because he came for people who had messed up their lives up and say, up until the time of Christ, people who even tried to follow God, they had a very limited idea of who he was, of what he was like.

But what we have here in Scripture, particularly the four gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, what we have here is a record of of what God did and what God said in a way that we can understand and realize this, that when we talk about Jesus as a human, he wasn't an ambassador for God. He was not a representative of God.

He was not a spokesman for God. He was God. He was fully God. Everything that God wanted to say about himself, he said it in Jesus Christ. And the Bible makes it clear that understanding this and believing this is essential to your salvation. It says in Colossians two verse nine from the message paraphrase, everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly.

You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ. Everything of God resides in Jesus Christ. He is the express image of the living God. And listen to me to have Jesus is to have God. And the Bible makes it clear that if you reject this idea, if you disbelieve this idea, if you go around saying, well, I believe that Jesus was a good teacher and a good man, but I just can't bring myself to believe that he was God.

You're not saved because this is crucial. This is a very important truth. Jesus Christ is none other than fully God Himself who introduced himself to this world. Get this as a little baby, as a helpless infant. That, my friends, is the miracle of the incarnation. The second word is revelation. Say that word back to me. Revelation means that God, for the first and only time made himself fully known to people everywhere is he.

He hadn't done that before for thousands of years before the time of Jesus. God said, don't touch me. God said, you can't look at my face and live. God said, take off your shoes, because where you're standing is holy ground. But in Christ, God came to fully reveal himself and says, touch me, listen to me. Here is exactly who I am.

I want you to know me first. John 1:1 I love this verse. It says the one who existed from the beginning is the one we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and we touched him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the word of life. We saw him. We touched him. Can you imagine that experience?

So, church, we don't have the advantage that the disciples had some 20 centuries ago. But if you want to get to know who God is, look at Jesus. If you want to know what God is like, the answer is Jesus. If you want to know a theological truth, if you want to know moral truth, if you want to know spiritual truth, if you want to know truth, look at Jesus Christ because he is the answer.

So we're living in a world where, frankly, we're up to here with information, aren't we? But very short on truth. There are all kinds of voices out there, all kind of noises out there, all kinds of opinions floating around, all kinds of podcasts out there. But there's a lot of fogginess when it comes to truth. Well, Christmas and the Birth of Christ cuts through all that stuff and says, you want to know what truth is?

Look at Jesus. Look at Jesus. That's truth, because he is the revelation of God. So I shift gears. I'm going to get personal with you. Can I get personal with all of you? No. Have you finished your Christmas shopping? Did you buy me something nice this time?

So who hasn't finished their Christmas shopping? Anybody. You can raise your hand, sir, I'm going to help you right now, okay? For those of you that have not finished Christmas shopping, there's a couple of criteria that I think make for a great Christmas gift because I consider myself something of an expert shopper. Okay, just I'm just saying know a good Christmas gift, first of all, has to represent the personality of the giver.

Okay. Yeah. It has to reflect who you are, I think in some way. In the second quality, it needs to meet the needs of the recipient. So that's it. A great Christmas gift should somehow kind of speak to who you are as a person. Number one. Number two, it should meet the needs of whoever you're giving the gift to.

So let's break that down. It should represent the personality of the giver. So let's just imagine for a moment that I'm well, I'm the chaplain of the Phoenix Suns. You know, the local NBA basketball team. And I as the chaplain, I hold chapel services for the team. I do Bible studies. I meet with the players individually and give spiritual counsel.

And as a way of thanking me at Christmas time, they give me a basketball that's actually been used in a in a regulation NBA game. And the basketball is special because every one of the players and the coaches have autographed it, they've all put their signatures on the basketball along with a special verse. I mean, they've given this to me as a way of as a token of appreciation.

And how would I feel about that, that gift? I'd be ecstatic. I'd probably, you know, display it prominently. I might build a special display case, you know, with lights and so that anybody could see that treasure. But let's say instead of giving me a basketball, the team instead hands me a wrapped gift and I unwrap it. And inside there's a note.

And the note begins by saying, Dear John, which is the only kind of note I ever get. By the way, Dear John, thank you so much for helping us. And inside this box, this package is a sweater and it says, we've all knit this sweater for you. We got together and knitted this sweater for you and it's signed Devin Booker and all the players on the team.

And I would say to myself that this just doesn't make any sense. You know, can you imagine a seven foot basketball player seven feet tall, you know, with a knitting needle? It looks like a toothpick in his hands trying to knit a sweater for somebody like me. It's got to fit. It's got to. It's got to fit the personality of the giver.

And so here's God and he's thinking, what? What can I give that represents who I am? You see, he had already sent prophets and priests and rabbis and preachers. So God did something really unusual. He gave himself. He came himself. Hebrews chapter one verse three says, The Son is the exact representation of his being. The son is the exact representation of his being.

It says on the screen. So if you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. If you want to know how God feels about sinners like us, look at Jesus. Because Jesus is not like God. He is God. Amen. Now, Brian, pay attention. Not only does it have to meet the personality of the giver, also it should meet the needs of the recipient, right?

I mean, a good gift, you know, because a lot of times at Christmas, let's face it, we get a gift. Have you ever you ever gotten a gift and you had to put out and put on an Academy Award performance? Oh, thank you so much. This is just and it's it's everything's wrong about it. What in the world were they thinking?

Amen. You know, it's the wrong size. It's the wrong color. If you don't believe that people get the wrong gift for Christmas, go to the return line of Costco the day after Christmas and tell me we get so many presents that are not right. You know we needed someone who walks where we walk. We needed someone who could, who could appreciate the guilt and the shame that we feel at times over our own sin.

We needed someone who could help us to overcome the power of sin in our lives. We needed someone who could step closer than a brother. We needed a friend. And God gave us himself. He gave us his son. He gave us Jesus. Small boy was some early one. December was sitting down writing a letter to God telling God what he wanted for Christmas.

He decided to bypass Santa and go right to the top, right to the big guy. Amen. And so he said, Dear God, I've been a good boy now for the last three months. And he knew that was a lie. So he crossed it off and started all over again. Dear God, I've been a good boy for the last month.

Well, that wasn't true either. So he cross that off and started again. Dear God, I've been a good boy now for the last two weeks. Well, even that was a stretch of the truth. So at that point he got up, walked over to the family nativity set and looked at all the figures there, Mary and Joseph, and, you know, the donkeys and the sheep and the shepherds.

And he grabbed the figure of Mary and stuck it in his pocket and went back to the desk, and he started all over again. And he said, Dear God, if you ever want to see your mother again.

Jesus.

Say his name. Say it again one more time, says even his name tells of his ability to meet your needs. There are over 700 names for Jesus in the Bible. He's our Redeemer. He's our counselor. He's our Savior. He's our Shepherd. He's our friend. Is there any need that he cannot meet? Is there any desire that he is not able to fulfill?

Is there any way in your life that Jesus is less than adequate? I'm going to tell you a true story. I didn't make this story up, so you can take this for what it's worth. Okay, I read it a long time ago. I saw it stuck with me. There was a guy who, had really prospered in his business, and he finally rewarded himself after years of struggle and all that with a new car.

He'd always dreamed of owning a brand new Rolls-Royce. So he went to the dealership and paid cash for a brand new Rolls-Royce. Just spanking new. And he went home and, he he was so enamored with this car. He loved this car. And he actually reached into the glove box and he took out the owner's manual, and he read the owner's manual cover to cover.

Have you ever known anybody? Can I see show of Hands that anybody who's ever done that, I know one person. My daughter said she's done that. I can. You know where liars go, don't you? Broadway Christian church, that's where. All right. So. So he read the owner's manual, and he told him about all the accessories and how the car worked and all that stuff.

But the one thing he couldn't find out was how much horsepower the engine had. So he went to the dealer and he said, you know, I'm kind of curious about this. I know everything about the car there is to know, I think, except one thing. What's the horsepower of the engine and the dealer kind of chuckled and he said, oh, you know, that's a long standing Rolls-Royce tradition.

We don't divulge the power of our automobiles. And the guy thought that was kind of quaint and cute, and he went on his way. Well, he came back a few days later and he said, you know what? I thought about it, and it's my car. I paid for it. I have a right to know what the horsepower is.

And the dealer said, I'm sorry, sir, but it's a longstanding tradition. We don't divulge how much horsepower your car has. Well, then the guy got mad, and he did what a lot of Americans do. He hired a lawyer and filed a lawsuit because he demanded to know. Well, the dealer caught wind of this, potential problem. So he said to the man, listen, you come down to the dealership tomorrow morning at 9:00 and we'll tell you how much we'll find out for you how much horsepower your car has.

So 9:00 the next morning, the man's there, his lawyer's there, a reporter. The news has caught wind of this, and the dealer's there. And so the dealer says, okay, I'm going to call the factory in England where Rolls-Royces are produced, and we're going to find out. So he calls him up and says, I've got a customer here, wants to know how much horsepower his car has.

What should I tell him? I see, and he hangs up the phone and he turns to the man. You know what he says to him? Come back next Sunday and I'll tell you, okay? I'm not kidding about that. No, he says to him, the horsepower of your car is adequate.

Adequate.

You ever wonder how much power Jesus has? How much horsepower does Jesus have? And the answer is he's adequate. Amen. In fact, he's more than adequate to meet your every need. That's why he says I am. I am the bread of life. When you're hungry, I am the water of life. When you're thirsty, I am the light of the world.

When you're struggling in the darkness. I am a friend. When you're lonely I am forgiveness. When you're guilty I am. Whatever your need in life is. Just fill in the blank. I am because he has revealed who God is to us, who is more than adequate to meet every need. Revelation. The last word get ready for this is celebration.

Say that word back to me. So what do we need more than life? More than anything in the world? What do we need? Well, it's been said that a person can live about 30 to 40 days without food. Maybe 3 to 4 days without water, perhaps 3 to 4 max without oxygen. But I'm telling you, you can't live a fraction of a second without hope.

Where do we find hope? Well, I'll tell you where. 20 centuries ago, some unsuspecting shepherds were tending their sheep on a Judean hillside, and suddenly the sky was filled with angels. And they made this incredible announcement. They said in Luke 214, glory to God in the highest, and on earth what's the word? Peace, goodwill toward men. Everybody wants peace.

Do you want peace, yes or no? We all want peace. I want to live at peace with my wife. I want to live at peace with my family, with my neighbors, with my friends. I want to live at peace in this church. We all want that. We want the nations to be at peace. But I'm telling you, if you don't have peace in your life, maybe the answer is because you don't have Christ in your life because that's where it starts.

If you truly want to be at peace in your life, it begins with God. Listen to this verse. Romans ten nine says, if you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. It says that if you profess your faith in Jesus, you will be saved.

That's true, but it's not entirely true because it's not just raising your hand when you're 12 and saying, I believe in Jesus and living like hell, the rest of your life. So it's not just a profession of that faith, it's the possession of that faith. Does your faith in Jesus possess you? Does it change you? Has it transformed you?

Has it made you more obedient, more loving, more like Christ? And if that's true for you, if your faith has changed you, transformed you, made you like Christ, then congratulations! You can rejoice and celebrate because your name is in the Book of Life. Amen. What about peace on earth? I mean, that's what the angels talked about. They said, there's going to be peace on earth.

But in the last 4000 years of recorded history, there have been 300 years of peace where nations were not warring, ethnicities were not warring 300 years out of 4000, as roughly 8%. So where's all this peace that the angels sang about? The question that I'm asking today is, will we ever be able to celebrate globally who Jesus is, King of kings and Lord of lords?

Will we as a people, as all the nations on the planet, ever be able to come together and openly confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father? Will that ever happen? Well, listen, because when you listen to some preachers today, and even a lot of Christians today, the world is not getting better. It's getting worse.

That evil is abounding and Satan is gradually taking over more and more control. It's a very pessimistic outlook and things are only getting worse. The world is slipping farther from God. The nations of this world are falling gradually more and more under the influence of evil, despotic leaders. And eventually Satan will have full control of this planet. That's a very pessimistic viewpoint.

Don't you believe it? Don't you believe that? Now, listen, I think it's you got to acknowledge that there are many problems in the world. There's a lot of evil, there's no doubt about that. But look at the bigger picture. Church, listen to this. When Jesus Christ was born, there was one nation on this planet, one tiny, insignificant little nation that believed in the one true God.

Did you know that? Just one. In fact, even the people of Israel had their doubts about God, all the other nations on the planet, every one of them, where they were living in the utter spiritual darkness, they didn't worship God. They worship false gods. They worship demons. They practiced witchcraft, sorcery, human sacrifices, human slavery. The world was living in darkness.

And Paul writes to the church at Ephesus, and he reminds the Ephesian believers what their lives used to be like. Here's what he says. Don't forget that you Gentiles used to be outsiders. In those days, you were living apart from Christ. You lived in this world without God and without what? Without hope. Now think of the world today.

Just let's get a proper assessment of this world. Do you realize that the gospel is being preached in every nation on the planet at this moment? Christianity is exploding in growth across the globe every, every single day. I don't mean every month. I don't mean every week, every year, every single day. 200,000 people are coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

200,000 people are getting saved. That should get an amen from somebody in this house.

That means every two and a half days, the population of Mesa, Arizona are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. So is the world getting better? Oh, I believe it is. And yes, there are troublesome things. There is still evil. That's that. You can't be so naive as to not expect that. But here's the deal. Here's where the church Jesus has called us to be.

Salt and light. Where to be kingdom minded people, where to advance his kingdom. We're not to live in fear. We're not to live in hiding. We're not to wait till some rapture takes us off this evil planet. We're supposed to be advancing the Kingdom of God and advancing the gospel everywhere we go. Why in the world would Jesus teach us to pray in the Lord's Prayer?

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. Where on earth as it. Why would he? Why would he have us pray a false prayer? No. He wants us to advance the kingdom. He wants his kingdom on earth to grow. And yes, we have a lot of work ahead of us. But let's not lose sight of the fact that the Kingdom of God is gaining ground because Jesus Christ is Lord and his kingdom is advancing.

Now, 700 years before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said this for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulder. Which government, by the way, the Roman Empire, the United States of America? No, his kingdom, his kingdom, his the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

So the angel shows up to Mary and announces to her that she is to bear the long awaited Messiah. And then he says something else that we sometimes just kind of gloss over. He said the angel said, and guess what? His kingdom will never end. Never end. It's advancing. It will never end. His coming into the world for the first time meant that everything is changed.

Everything is changed. What it means is that now we know that we're going someplace. Now we know we're headed somewhere. And nothing in this life and nothing in history will make any sense until we acknowledge not only the first coming of Jesus, but the second coming of Jesus to claim his kingdom and to claim his kingdom minded people.

Amen. His second, his first coming is the central event in human history in his second coming. Oh, I'll tell you, his second coming will make the First coming pale in comparison to what it will be like. So, Christian, you ought to rejoice. You know that you ought to celebrate, because joy to the world. The Lord has come, and he is coming again.

Amen. Let's pray. Oh, father, we thank you that we indeed can celebrate this greatest of all news. Thank you that you stepped into space and time for our sake and became flesh and blood. Thank you that you have revealed yourself through your Son Jesus. Fully God, fully man, and what we know of Jesus is now what we know of you, how we see, how we interact with the people, the up and out, the down and out.

And Lord, we thank you that we have such a vivid picture of who you are and that causes us to celebrate Lord this day, and not just at Christmas, but all days. And we thank you for this in Jesus name. And all God's people said.

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