

*Psalm 19:14 Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.*

*1 Timothy 1:2 ...Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **“The Gift is Life”**

### **Introduction: Another Unwed Mother**

“Another unwed mother,” you can almost hear the neighborhood gossip complain as Mary’s pregnancy begins to show. “What a disgrace.” “What a shame.” “She could have married someone better than that carpenter if she had waited.”

Little could the neighborhood gossip know that Mary is pregnant due to the work of the Holy Spirit. Mary is not your average, run of the mill unwed mother. She is still a virgin, even after becoming pregnant. She has not broken the sixth commandment, she is bringing something new into this sin-racked world.

Yet there must have been people that treated her with contempt for what appeared to be the product of fornication. Most of us would assume the same thing, even if we don’t share the gossip’s critical attitude.

But what is it that Mary brings to this world that still interests us after 2,000 years? The short answer is she brings the gift of life.

## **The First Life**

Life, of course, did not originate with Mary. Life begins with God and his desire for something more than himself. God always had companionship. God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit have communicated with one another within the essence of the Godhead since before the world was created but God wanted something outside of himself.

God wanted more than his relationship within the Holy Trinity. He wanted a world that teems with life. So he created the lush vegetation of the rainforest, the powerful polar bears of the Arctic, and even the deer that we all try to avoid running over at this time of year.

As the governors of all this, he created Adam and Eve. They were created to care for his creation and walk in fellowship with their Creator. Back then God literally walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. Many theologians believe that it was actually Jesus who walked with Adam and Eve in the garden, even though he had not taken on human flesh in the way he did when he was born to Mary.

## **Life after Death**

As you all know, this beautiful scene did not last. The fellowship between God, Adam and Eve did not last. Death entered creation because of the disobedience of those who had been trusted to care for creation. Creeping death began to spread through what previously had known only life. Finally death came to Adam and Eve and all their descendents.

But before they died, God promised them someone to rescue them from the power of death. Here is that promise made in only the third chapter of the Bible.

Genesis 3:14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. 15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

Eve thought that she would be the mother of this offspring. When her first son, Cain, was born she thought he would be the one to overcome the serpent. Instead, Cain committed the first murder and Eve would be a very distant ancestor of the Savior.

Mary is the mother of the man who would crush the serpent's head. On the cross, the serpent would strike Jesus' heel. Jesus would die from the blow. But his death on the cross would crush the head of Satan and bring new life for us.

## **New Life Now**

So this new life form, this baby, that is born to Mary is not just another child born into poverty. He is a new life that brings new life for the whole human race. Jesus is literally a new life for you and me.

Because the power of death has been crushed, we can truly live. We can celebrate. We can stop worrying. All because we know that we are eternal too. We will have temporary, mortal problems but they will pass quickly in the face of eternity.

From now on, we live with God like Adam and Eve. It is true that we can't see him face to face like they could but that day will come soon. We look forward to the second time that Jesus comes because that will be the day when we will see the face of God. That day, we will be restored to the Garden of Eden.

## **Conclusion**

So this evening, we celebrate more than just an American custom. We celebrate more than what the commercials dictate. We celebrate the coming of God to man, so that man can be returned to God.

*May that peace which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.*