

11-30-25 Before Bethlehem: Merry Mythmas: Jesus Had a Birth, not a Beginning

Week 1

Text: John 1:1-3.

Big idea: Jesus had His birth in Bethlehem, but not His beginning, because He has always been.

Introduction: "Merry Mythmas!"

Have you ever had one of those moments where you realized you've been singing the wrong lyrics your entire life?

- You thought it was "Deck the halls with Buddy Holly" ... not "boughs of holly."
- Or how about "The cattle are glowing" ... which is either a Christmas miracle or a radioactive farm situation.
- "No crying He makes." Said no mother ever!
- The Bible doesn't say, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." **Luke 2:13, "praising God and saying..."**
- The Bible doesn't say anything about a star over the manger. The wise men followed a star to the toddler. (They didn't show up the night Jesus was born.)
- And let's be honest—some of us still think the wisemen showed up at the manger with gold, frankincense, and... wait for it... a little drummer boy who played his heart out on a snare drum. ("Ba-rum-pum-what?")

We laugh. But what if I told you that just like those carol lyrics, many of us have been handed a version of Christmas that's a little off?

A lot of what we think we know about the first Christmas—where Jesus was born, who showed up, what happened, and even **why** it happened—has been shaped more by Christmas cards, cartoons, and carols than by actual Scripture.

And here's the problem:

If we don't get the beginning of Jesus right, we might miss who He really is.

So today, we're going to unwrap some common myths and rediscover the majestic, eternal, untamable Jesus—not the sugar-cookie version, but the Cosmic Creator who became flesh.

This sermon isn't called "Merry Christmas." It's called... "Merry Mythmas."

So, grab your Bibles, not your nativity set. Let's clean the tinsel off the truth—and make sure we're not just celebrating a holiday but worshipping a King who never had a beginning.

Read John 1:1–3

John wastes no time. He doesn't start with the manger; he starts with majesty.

Before you meet the baby wrapped in clothes, you're confronted with the divine Logos, the eternal Word, face-to-face with the Father, creating galaxies and spinning planets.

UNWRAPPING FOUR MYTHS WITH FOUR TRUTHS

I. Myth #1: Jesus Started in Bethlehem

- **Truth:** Jesus Is Eternally God (**John 1:1a**)
- Let's be clear: Bethlehem is where Jesus was born, not where He began.
- "In the beginning" = before the Big Bang, before **Genesis 1:1**.
- Jesus was not created. He didn't begin to exist—He always was.
- John uses the Greek imperfect tense— "was continually existing."
- Jesus said, "...before Abraham was, I Am." (**John 8:58**)

Timeline check:

Genesis 1:1 — "In the beginning, God created..."

John 1:1 — "In the beginning was the Word..."

Jesus was not a supporting character. He's the eternal co-author of creation.

Application:

Do you only make room for Jesus in December, or is He the centerpiece of your calendar?

The word "Logos" was packed with meaning for Jews and Greeks:

- Hebrew: Logos communicated to the very words of God = power, creation, revelation, a reference to God (**Psalms 33:6**).
- Greek: the Logos = the rational force holding the universe together. It was what gave meaning to all things, embodying thought, wisdom, and rationality.

John says, they are both right—but He's more than a force. He's a Person. And His name is Jesus.

Since a word is an audible expression of a thought, as the Word, Jesus has revealed what goes on in the mind of God. He is the bridge between God and us.

II. Myth #2: Jesus Is Just One of the Team

- **Truth:** Jesus Is Equally God (**John 1:1b**)
- **“...and the Word was with God...”**
- Greek word: **πρὸς** (pros) – means “face-to-face, intimate relationship.”
- This isn’t proximity; it’s perfect fellowship.
- Jesus, as the Son of God, has always been face to face with God the Father as we see in **John 17:5**:

“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

- To reinforce His eternal preexistence, John restated and reinforced this truth in **verse 2: “He was in the beginning with God.”** The pronoun **“He”** shows we are not saved by a principle or power, but by a personal Savior.

John 17:5 — “Glorify Me with the glory I had with You before the world began.”

- The Trinity isn’t three gods in a group text - it’s one God in three persons in perfect unity.

Genesis 1:26 – “Let us make man in our image...”

Application:

If Jesus is fully God, He’s not just worthy of inspiration... He’s worthy of adoration.

Stop putting Him on your shelf like a Hallmark ornament. Bow before Him like Thomas: **“My Lord and my God.”**

III. Myth #3: Jesus Is a Great Example, Teacher or Prophet

- **Truth:** Jesus Is God (**John 1:1c**)
- **“...and the Word was God.”**
- This can’t be any clearer. In the original language, it is even stronger because the word **“God”** is in the emphatic position.
- The Greeks would put the word they wanted to emphasize first in the sentence, so it reads this way, **“God was the Word!”** John could not have said it more emphatically.
- According to **Hebrews 1:1-2**, Jesus is God’s last word to mankind:

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” NLT

- This is not poetic language. It’s precise theology.

- Jesus isn't just "like God."
- He isn't "divine-ish."
- He is God in essence and nature.
- Those who believe Jesus is anything, but God are wrong according to God's Word.
- Scripture gets this exactly right.

Hebrews 1:3 – “The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.”

Revelation 1:8 – “I am the Alpha and the Omega...”

Application:

If Jesus is God, then obedience is not optional.

Don't treat His teachings as suggestions. They are sovereign decrees.

IV. Myth #4: Jesus Is Part of Creation

- **Truth:** Jesus Is the Creator of Everything (**John 1:3**)
- **“All things were made through Him...”**
- The phrase **“all things”** is a categorically absolute statement. The phrase **“through Him”** reminds us Jesus Christ is the agent of creation.
- Jesus isn't part of the nativity scene - He's the one who invented nativity scenes.

Colossians 1:16-17 – “for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him. 17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.”

1 Corinthians 8:6 – “Through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

- Not just baby in a feeding trough... He's God in creative overdrive.
- He created atoms, gravity, lions, lambs, DNA, blood cells, supernovas... and yes, you.

Application:

If He created you, He defines you.

He has the authority to reshape your identity, your future, and your purpose.

THEOLOGICAL CLARITY: Why This Matters

According to the State of Theology survey:

- Over 30% of churchgoers believe Jesus was created.
- 8% say they're not sure.

Let me say this plainly:

A created Christ cannot be your Savior.

A non-divine Jesus cannot bear divine wrath.

If we get the nature of Christ wrong, **everything** else collapses.

That's why John starts here. Before you sing about a baby, you better bow before the eternal Word.

CHALLENGE: From Myth to Majesty

You can keep the camels, the shepherds, and the little drummer boy if you want. Just make sure your heart bows before the eternal Christ.

Jesus is not a side note. He's the source of everything.

He's not just a gift under the tree. He's the root of the tree.

He's not the reason for the season. He's the reason for everything.

So, this Christmas, let your heart move...

From cute myths to convicting majesty.

From carols and candy canes to Christ who is King.

From seasonal wonder to eternal worship.

PRAYER:

Lord Jesus,

You are not a myth. You are not a seasonal story. You are not a religious mascot.

You are the Word. The Logos. Eternal, equal, and divine. The One who made the galaxies and holds them together. The One who made us... and came to save us. Forgive us for sentimentalizing You. Wake us up to worship You. Remind us that You didn't begin in Bethlehem—you stepped into it. And You did it for us. So we bow our hearts, our minds, our myths, and our pride. We lay them at Your feet, and we lift up Your name.

In the name of the eternal Christ, Jesus our Lord, Amen.