

The Scrolls are designed to work in tandem, with our Sunday services, to maximize the benefit of God's Word in our lives. The Scrolls can be used with a Spiritual Life Notebook, which is available Sunday mornings at the info. table in the Plaza. The Scrolls, along with companion materials for small groups, are also available online at www.fbcdavis.org.

Who do you say that I am?

For generations, rulers, religious leaders, and ordinary people have struggled to answer this question that Jesus posed to his followers one day. "Who do you say that I am?" It surely is one of the most important questions that humanity will ever answer. Through the ages, people have answered that question differently. Here are a few:

Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded his empire upon love; and at this hour, millions of men would die for him. ~ Napoleon Bonaparte

I like your Christ; I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ. ~ Mahatma Gandhi

the unique impression of Jesus upon mankind - whose name is not so much written as ploughed into the history of the world - is proof of the subtle virtue of this infusion. Jesus belonged to the race of prophets. He saw with open eyes the mystery of the soul. One man was true to what is in you and me. He, as I think, is the only soul in history who has appreciated the worth of man. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Jesus died too soon. He would have repudiated His doctrine if He had lived to my age. ~ Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

At this point in history, of greater importance than what Nietzsche or Gandhi believed about Christ, is what we believe about him. Who better to clue us in, than those who first introduced him to the world? This week we look together at the testimony of angels concerning Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Monday – Friend of the King

Perhaps some of the fuss and bother about whether Mary could have conceived Jesus without a human father is because, deep down, we don't want to think that there might be a king who could claim this sort of absolute allegiance.

N.T. Wright

1. How do you answer the question posed by Jesus to his followers? "Who do you say that I am?"
2. Read Luke 1:26-38. How does the angel Gabriel answer that question? List all the words and phrases he makes regarding Jesus' identity. What does Gabriel say about Jesus' royalty?

Living it Today – "Friend of the King for a Day": What would it be like to be a close friend of a great king for even one day? As you go through your day today, reflect upon the truth that this Jesus who calls you friend (John 15:14) and has said he will never leave you nor forsake you, is also King of kings. As you go through your day discover whether this truth makes any difference in your day. At the end of the day, write down any thoughts and insights.

Tuesday – Mary's Response to the Angel

Today, as I read the accounts of Jesus' birth, I tremble to think of the fate of the world resting on the responses of two rural teenagers. How many times did Mary review the angel's words as she felt the Son of God kicking...? Philip Yancey

1. Read again Luke 1:26-28 noting Mary's first response to the angel. In the end what was her response to the angel's proclamation?
2. Compare Mary's response to Zechariah's muddled response in Luke 1:5-20.

Living it Today – As you close, consider Philip Yancey's quote above. Take a moment to thank God for Mary's response of faith.

Wednesday – The Angel to Joseph

"What are we to make of Christ?" There is no question of what we can make of Him; it is entirely a question of what He intends to make of us. CS Lewis

1. Read Matthew 1:18-24. What does the angel tell us about Jesus' identity? Matthew, the gospel writer, gives us further insight into Jesus' identity by quoting from Isaiah 7:14. What does this second name tell us about Jesus?
2. In the face of difficult circumstances, what is Joseph's response to all this?

Living it Today – Obeying God can be uncomfortable at times. Both Joseph and Mary were comforted and encouraged to not be afraid. Ask the Lord to give you courage to follow and obey him today.

Thursday – The Angels to the Shepherds

If the thing happened, it is the central event of the history of the Earth. CS Lewis (speaking about the Incarnation)

1. Please read Luke 2:8-20. What did these angels say about the Messiah Jesus? Put yourself in the shepherd's shoes. How would you have responded?
2. Why do you suppose the angels sought out blue collar shepherds to make their announcement?

Living it Today – God often looks past the famous, the powerful, the prestigious, and instead, calls average ordinary people to himself. Today, take time to thank him, for having chosen you, to reveal himself to you.

Friday – King of king

...the point Luke is making is clear. The birth of this little boy is the beginning of a confrontation between the Kingdom of God – in all its apparent weakness, insignificance and vulnerability – and the kingdoms of the world. NT Wright

1. The historical background of the Christ story brings added richness to the story. As you read Luke 2:1-20, notice that two kings are mentioned, Augustus and the Messiah King Jesus. Two thousand years later, which king is reigning?
2. Jesus' kingdom comes in the form of a child with "apparent weakness, insignificance and vulnerability." Why did God choose to send his son in this manner?

Digging Deeper – The kingdoms of this earth, will someday, all pass away. The sooner we align ourselves with King Jesus and his coming kingdom, the better off we will be. What does it mean to align ourselves with his Kingdom?