



## Sermonnotes: Sunday, December 30, 2007

Notes to better help you understand Sunday's sermon text

Text: Luke 2:13-15, 19-23

Title: Christmas Through Jesus' Eyes

Birthdays are referenced only three times in the Bible.

In Genesis 40 we read that on Pharaoh's birthday where the one time royal baker is hanged and the cupbearer returned to his former position. In Matthew 14 we read that on his birthday Herod granted Herodias's daughter her wish to have John the Baptist's head brought out on a silver platter. And we read in Matthew and Luke about Jesus' own birth.

On balance, birthdays are something of a mixed blessing in Scripture!

So how did Jesus see his own birth?

As a boy I suspect it was through his parents' eyes. Perhaps the gold, frankincense and myrrh – all so odd and out of place in a home like his – were the reminders to him of his remarkable birth. As Jesus grew up we must be right in thinking that Joseph and Mary told Jesus about what had happened.

As a young man Jesus would have learned the Scriptures at the synagogue. We know that later he was able to quote extensively from them which means he had to have memorized large portions of Deuteronomy, Isaiah, and the Psalms along with the rest of the 'Law and the Prophets.'

During his three years of public ministry we don't read of Jesus reading the Scriptures, except at the synagogue, but we see him praying often. But for Jesus even the word prayer seems to be used by the gospel writers to describe a way of life for Jesus, the relationship he had with the Father. While we normally think of prayer as us talking to God, for Jesus it appears that he listened far more than he spoke. Prayer, not the kind we engage in but the kind Jesus practiced, was more about being in God's presence and listening for the Father's direction as Jesus inaugurated the Kingdom here on earth.

In each of these three ways Jesus came to see his birthday from the vantage point of Good Friday. And only because of his understanding, gained from family, Scripture and prayer could he go to the cross on that day.

