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Jesus' Birth -- The Story of Christmas

A long time ago in Nazareth, in a poor house, lived a girl who was a virgin. Her name was Mary. One day, as she was doing some work, all of a sudden a bright light shown down on her. It was an angel. The angel's name was Gabriel. He said, "Do not be afraid. You will have a son and you will call him, Jesus."

She said, "How can this be? I am a virgin." The angel said, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be with child. Joseph will take you as his wife."

A couple of days later, she told her father and mother and her brothers and sisters. They were scared because she was not married. But she told them that God had sent an angel to share the good news and that everything would be O.K. Then she went to Aunt Elizabeth's house who was also expecting a baby. When she walked in the door, the baby, who Elizabeth and her husband would later call John, leapt in her tummy with joy. Then she told Elizabeth her story. Elizabeth then told Mary, "When you walked in the door, my baby leapt with joy."

When Mary told these things to Joseph, the one she was to marry, he too was scared and was not sure if he should marry her. But when he went to bed that night, the angel spoke to him saying, "Do not be afraid. What Mary said is true. Take her as your wife. The Lord will be with you. Call your child Jesus, who will be Christ the Lord." The next morning, Joseph ran to Mary and told her what the angel said to him.

About eight months later, he learned that he would have to travel to the place where he was born for

a census. He and Mary packed up and left, even though she was very pregnant and weak. They traveled many miles until they got to the town of Bethlehem. Even though it was a poor place, this is where God wanted them to go for the savior to be born.

The evening the baby was to be born, they looked around the town for a room but could not find one. They finally found an inn where they were allowed to use the stable. Nearby were some shepherds watching their flocks. A bright light shown on them. It was an angel who said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. In this town of Bethlehem you will find a baby who is Christ the Lord. He will be wrapped in swaddling clothes and will be lying in a manger." Then many more angels appeared in the heavens and sang, "Glory to God in the highest." The Shepherds went off to seek the baby. When they found Him, they worshiped Him.

Three years later, wise men followed a star and also found the baby who was now a toddler and worshipped Him. They brought Him gifts of frankincense, gold and myrrh. On the way to seek the Lord, they went to King Herod and asked him where the new king was. The wicked King Herod said, "I do not know, but when you find him, tell me where he is so that I can worship Him myself." But he was lying. The Lord came upon the wise men when they were leaving and warned them not to tell Herod where the baby was. They went home another way.

After King Herod found out that the wise men had tricked him, he had all baby boys under age four killed. But the angel warned Joseph and he took his family to Egypt until Herod died.

And so now you know the true story of Jesus' birth. This is the real meaning of Christmas. It's not about presents. It's about the Lord Jesus.