

A Message from Pastor Travis Dean

Have you noticed that babies are fascinated by other babies? My daughter, Abigail, is in the process of graduating into toddlerhood, and yet she is still fascinated with babies. She is quick to point them out and loves to watch video clips of them on Youtube.com. My wife recently set out a child-friendly nativity set in the living room. Once again, Abigail's fascination was with the baby. She is unacquainted with the story behind this baby. She is unable to comprehend what Jesus' birth means for her. She just knows that He is similar to her. And maybe this is the source of the attraction.

In some ways I guess I am like Abigail. When I thought of Jesus as someone far removed from me, my attraction to Him was minimal. He was perfect, while I am not. His Father was divine, while mine is human. But it was Jesus' humanity that attracted me to Him. When I saw how much we had in common, I came to love Him.

The author of Hebrews mentions how Jesus became human. In Hebrews 2:13 Jesus is quoted as saying, "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." Then in verse 14 the writer continues, "Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same." This passage of Scripture gives us a unique picture of Jesus. It's like He is speaking to His Father as a child and identifying with us like a child identifies with another child. A bond has been created between us based on our similarities.

I pray this Christmas season that we, like Abigail, might be attracted to the baby in the manger. He is like your nephew, son or grandson. He nurses, gets His diaper dirty, and cries. And the reason He chose this identity is our salvation. He became a baby in Bethlehem so that we might be kings and priests (Revelation 1:5, 6). Maybe this is one of the reasons why we will always love Him and throughout eternity will follow Him wherever He goes (Revelation 14:4).