

Special's
Prime Time

Many special men could speak of -
Churchill would be interesting. He enjoyed
a battle with words - one night at a party a lady
asked him "If I was your wife, I'd put poison in your tea."
Churchill said "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

Christmas Eve - Dec. 25, 74 10:15 P.M. -
" Day " 25, 83 11 A.M. -
Brinkhoff at 16, 87 prayer meeting ✓
Grove Park at 22 90 ✓
Lake Drummond Dec 4, 94 Am ✓
Sept 17, 95 Fisher Day Am ✓
Large GNB ✓
CENTREVILLE OCT 18 P.M. ✓

Luke 2:29-31
1:31-32

Label 1:52

In Charles Dickens Christmas Carol - there is a character by the name of Fred - the nephew of old scrooge. Fred dropped in at the cheerless office of his uncle, Ebenezer Scrooge and cheerfully said, "A Merry Christmas, uncle". Bah, said Scrooge - hum bug, what good has Christmas ever done you.

Is there anything special about Christmas and about Jesus. A Chaplain once was in Spain on a preaching mission, with the Air Force. At Madrid the scenery was beautiful. A sgt. drove him out about 30 miles to a mountain. A beautiful place - and on top they could see a great giant cross. It was so large that two automobiles could pass each other on its arms of the cross. And they could see that within the mountain which held the cross was a Roman Catholic Cathedral. They walked up the steps and went through the huge doors of the Cathedral. The candles were burning and beautiful music was playing. Inside and out, were graves. And as they walked around, the young sgt. pointed to the grave of Spain's greatest martyr. And then he came to a large golden crucifix - on the cross hung the body of Jesus. The young sgt. whispered in the Chaplain's ear, there is supposed to be something very special about that Jesus up there. At that point, the Chaplain told him that he did not know what might be special about this image. He did know that Jesus was special within himself.

1:52

Tonight we know that there is something special about Jesus. And many people have raised the question - what's so special about it. Many young people today are asking, are we living on something that is just speculation or some philosophy. Good people ask the question, who is Jesus. Is he alive. Does he love us. Is this story about Jesus just a myth. Is it only a story of a good Jew who lived a good life,

died, and went to his grave.

Whom do men said that I am - the son of man? Some said he is John the Baptist. Others/ Elijah - Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. The question is, whom say ye that I am.

Through the centuries men have had a high view of Jesus and they have had a low view. There is a right and a wrong. And there is a noble and wise view that is good.

Now some people say that Jesus was only a good man. Just like Moses, Solomon/ or David! Just like Martin Luther or Dr. Truitt, or Spurgeon, or some other man. There are others who hold a view that he was the son of God. That as the son of God, he was divine. That is the view I hold.

I'd like to pose tonight some reasons why I think Jesus is very special.

I. THINK ABOUT WHAT HIS FRIENDS SAID ABOUT HIM.

The best friends that he ever knew - they thought about him. And they will tell you. And if you have a good friend - they know about you. And they tell other people around the town and wherever they go, all about you. So here is a man, Jesus, who grew up in a place and his friends knew about him. Matthew wrote a Gospel and painted the picture of the Old Testament prophesy. And told that Jesus was the Messiah.

Mark whose home Jesus visited, he wrote about him as a wonder worker. A miracle worker.

Luke wrote a full gospel - told about God coming in the flesh.

John said in the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word

was God. Scottish Miss (Frederick Arnot) spoke well of God's Son in central Africa - so well that thousands of people became Christians! When young he tried it, meeting, As long as three hours, then and tried down out voice, profane. Paul speaks of Christ as Jesus of God. Moved to team - prepared to leave - A tall elderly Christian man who had witnessed "Keep at it Laddie" "God loves to hear men speak well of his son" "Arnot's highest goal was to speak well of God's Son"

John in Rev. speaks of him as the lamb of God.

John said g. was special

II. HIS OWN OPINION IS A REASON WHY HE IS SPECIAL.

John 14:6 - I am the way. Walk ye in it.

V. 6 - I am the life - I am come that you might have life. And might have it more abundantly. I am the truth.

John 8:12 - I am the light of the world. If you will follow me, ye shall not walk in darkness. One of the greatest concepts of God in the Bible is - that of light. The Lord is our light and Jesus said this about himself. That he was the light.

The dean of York Minister, several years back on Christmas Sunday morning, experienced at the Cathedral an unusual event. It was misty and foggy. And English people know about that in the winter time. He had made his way to the church service early. Along a foggy street. He was shocked by a great blaze of light. First, it seemed to him that the whole area was afire. But far above the floor of the cathedral the morning sun was pouring it's light through the windows. And

while it was dark, and foggy outside - the inside of the great church was ablaze with light. Light from above. And surely it is a parable. Now man has done his best to find the whole truth about God. But at best, he has reached the twilight. Then from above, God himself, by a deliberate act - and self-revealing act, made himself known unto all men when he came in the flesh at Bethlehem.

I am the door. If any man enter in, he shall be saved.

I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.

I and my father are one. If ye have known me, ye should have known my father also.

III. HUMAN HISTORY.

Jesus is special because of what his friends said and what he said, and what history has said. Now we are not talking about 10 or 20 years. We are talking about 20 centuries. 2,000 years of history. And what does it say about Jesus Christ. History proclaims him as a son of God. Wherever the glorious gospel of Christ has gone, it has been the power of God, unto salvation to all that believe.

A missionary told a story about some cannabals that came one day to a village in China. They told the people to get off the streets and to go to their homes. In order that they would understand, they killed two or three children. And frightened, of course, the people did go home. The missionary was not afraid. He went down to his little chapel and turned on the lights. And when they came

in and threatened to kill him, he opened God's word and began to read the story of how Jesus loved us, and bled on the cross for us, and their hearts mellowed. And 13 of them accepted Christ as Lord and Saviour. Until this day, there are some men out of those families that are still fine Christians in China. Now that is what has happened around the world. That has been part of the history of it.

Sam Hadley a drunken bum, said if I ever become such a sot that I can't buy my own liquor, I'll jump in the Hudson River and end it all. One day he sat by a stove in a saloon, and he was stupid with liquor. And someone said to him, now is the time to draw yourself. You are no good. So he walked up to the bar and pounded his fist, and said to the saloon keeper (I'll never drink another drop of liquor as long as I live.) He walked out, went to jail for three days, so weak that he could hardly move, and when he got out he went to the mission - Jerry Hadley, in New York City. He heard people thanking God on their knees, that they had been saved. Jerry and his wife prayed for this man. He fell on his knees. Oh Lord Jesus, if you can help a poor drunken bum like me - won't you please do it now. And the burden rolled away from his soul. And he was a new man. And later the superintendent of the mission, for 25 years. Now this story can be multiplied. The artist says that Jesus is the ideal portrait. The astronomer says he is the bright and morning star. The banker says he is the hidden treasure. The carpenter says he is the door. The doctor says he is the great physician. The educator says he is the master teacher. The farmer says he is the seed of righteousness and the Lord of harvest. The florist says he is the lily of the valley, the rose of shearin. The jeweler says he is the peril of great price. The juror says he is the true witness. The lawyer says he is a good advocate. The newspaper man says he is good tidings of great joy. The preacher says he is the word of God. The sculptor says he is the living stone. The soldier, he is the captain of salvation.

The sailor, the pilot across the sea. The poor sinner, he is the lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world.

All of history says there is something special about Jesus.

IV. EXPERIENCE TEACHES US THAT HE IS SPECIAL.

Prayer. - Answer me - continuing care

Now his friends tells you that there is something special about him. He, himself says that he is special. History says that he is special. And experience of the human heart, reveals that Jesus Christ is special. What he has done for me, I, a poor sinner - lost - when I told the story of God's love for me, I can say he is very special. Jesus has done so much for me.

Gypsy Smith used to say as he looked at an old rusty knife that his father used to use, as he traveled around and worked in the harvest time. What I would have

been had it not been for the grace of God.

Charles Finney - it was a grove to trees, at a time of Prayer, my conversion happened. Lawyer Squire worked in same office - hard time getting into the kingdom - Finally the Finney he went to go give stress to prayer, soon he began to sing 'it will rejoice in the God of my Salvation' He shouted: Returned to Village of fire met an aged Methodist Brother - rushed up, put his arms around, sit down - 'I must tell you - "I've got it!" "I've got it!"' - filled him with unspeakable joy - Lawyer had taken a decided stand

Now we don't understand all about this. Neither do we understand all about electricity. But if we push a switch one way the light will go on - and if we push it another way, it will go out. And I don't understand all about God but he has been so good to us, and he has been something special for us.

For we have experienced his great redemption. Man's keenest need - we could not (get rid of sin.) We had violated God's law - sinned against ourselves and other people. But redemption is the oldest and the newest need of man.

If there is anything else at Christmas to recognize, Jeremiah said this - that the people of Jerusalem were destroying themselves by sin. The Christmas story

If Jesus were born in Bethlehem this Christmas Eve night and information reached the great wires of service, what would be heard on the radios and T. V. We would interrupt our programs to inform - to receive a bulletin of consequence that would change the course of all human history.

He is the prince of peace. And this was the thing that Simeon felt made Jesus so special. He brought peace to

There is a lovely prayer of St. Fr

Lord make me an instrument of thy
Where there is hatred, let me sow
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is discord, union
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
Where there is sadness, joy
O divine Master grant that I may
To be consoled, as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving, that we receive
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned
It is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.

A. J. Cronin, tells an interesting story in The Candle in Vienna of a visitor in that beautiful city shortly at the close of World War II. The visitor was there to assess the damage done by the bombing and fighting within the city. He had been there many times--a city he loved deeply. As he walked through the streets, saw bombed out churches, businesses and the opera house, he was burdened with the weight of grief at the destruction war had wrought. He found himself in a little eastern neighborhood of the city when it began to rain and sleet. The only place he could find shelter was in a little church, unlocked. He slipped into the church and sat in its warmth in a quiet somber moment. He heard someone slip into the back of the church and saw a stooped, old man carry a paralyzed little girl to the front of the church, set her before the altar and helped fashion her hands into a prayer. For a few moments they prayed in the quietness of the church. Finally, the old man stood, took a tiny coin from his pocket, dropped it into the box, selected a candle, lit it and gave to the girl. The light cast flickers of shadow over the chapel but he could see a face of serenity. The girl held the candle a few moments and then stuck it up on the candle stand. Her grandfather picked her up and carried her out. The visitor followed them from the church-- interested in what he had seen. He saw the old man reach put the girl in a little, handmade chair on which had he fashioned wheels. He saw the tattered clothing and evidences of poverty but he also saw an obviously aristocratic family--the man stood with straight bearing and carried the marks of great dignity. The visitor asked the man, "The war?" The man responded, "Yes. The same bomb which did this killed her mother and her father." There was a long pause with no one saying anything. "You come here often?" "Yes, everyday to pray and also to let the good God know we're not too angry with him." In response, the visitor went back into the quiet little chapel where the candle was still burning and thought, "One candle in a ruined city, but while it shown, there seemed hope for the world for they had overcome" and we can overcome.

This is why Jesus is so special. And it is our prayer that he will be special to you. That he will fulfill the hopes and the dreams that you have in your heart.

If Jesus were born in Bethlehem this Christmas Eve night and information reached the great wires of service, what would be heard on the radios and T. V. We would interrupt our programs to inform - to receive a bulletin of consequence that would change the course of all human history.

He is the prince of peace. And this was the thing that Simeon felt made Jesus so special. He brought peace to his heart.

There is a lovely prayer of St. Francis.

Lord make me an instrument of thy peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is discord, union
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
Where there is sadness, joy
O divine Master grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console
To be understood, as to understand
To be loved, as to love
For it is in giving, that we receive
It is in pardoning, that we are pardoned
It is in dying, that we are born to eternal life.

ning son on the road
orgiven," before the
signs of sonship--a
ignon--as a sign of
re is any word I hope
is kind of God in your
ing son on the road
e we have experienced
Jesus Christ did by
u to follow, confess
y. We invite you to
I will be nourished,
esurrection means the
within its body like a
loving and caring God
lving a resurrection
victory over the most
nce--the suffering of
death where is "thy
in Jesus Christ. If he had seen.
ome death, there is no
clothing and evidences of
stocratic family--the man
suffering was the kind
hing real spiritual--
persecution or being
oviet dissidents have
tanding of suffering.
pain everyone of us
ears of living to know
the pain of suffering.
In The Candle in Vienna of a
the close of World War II.
ge done by the bombing and
here many times--a city he
e streets, saw bombed out
, he was burdened with the
wrought. He found himself
city when it began to rain
d shelter was in a little
urch and sat in its warmth
e slip into the back of the
paralyzed little girl to
le altar and helped fashion
ments they prayed in the
ld man stood, took a tiny
e box, selected a candle
st flickers of shadow over
enity. The girl held the
on the candle stand. Her
The visitor followed
made chair on which had he
clothing and evidences of
stocratic family--the man
marks of great dignity.
man responded, "Yes. The
and her father." There
"You come here often?"
ood God know we're not too
went back into the quiet
burning and thought, "One
n, there seemed hope for
in overcome.

This is why Jesus is so special. And it is our prayer that he will be special to you. That he will fulfill the hopes and the dreams that you have in your heart.