

Series: Christmas Originals

# THE ORIGINAL CHRISTMAS TREE

## LUKE 2 AND OTHERS

Text: Luke 2:10-11

Introduction:

What comes to our mind when we stop and think about that symbol that is perhaps one of the most popular symbols of the Christmas season?

I am talking of course about the Christmas tree.

Yet in my mind, I am convinced that the original Christmas tree was not pre-lit or artificial, it was not decorated with ornaments or lights but it was the tree that had the one light on it...the light of the world.

It was the Christmas tree that sets people free.

To me the cross will always be the original Christmas tree because Christ came to this earth for the very purpose of giving His life upon that tree at Calvary.

Note again the purpose of God sending His Son to this earth.

### **Luke 2:10-11**

<sup>10</sup> And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Saviour**, which is Christ the Lord.

### **Matthew 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for **he shall save** his people from their sins.

### **John 4:42**

<sup>42</sup> And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, **the Saviour of the world**.

Make no mistake about it the whole reason for Christmas is that we all needed a Saviour – not a baby.

May we be reminded not only today but throughout our life that God didn't place His gift under a tree but on a tree.

Let's think about the Christmas tree for just a moment.

If you had to choose a part of a tree that you would say is the most humble part of a live Christmas tree what would the most humble part be?

The trunk most would probably agree.

In every Christmas Tree I see three parts of the tree.

The Trunk - Which would be the most humble part.

The center part with all its branches makes up the bulk of the tree, which represents the fullness of that tree.

Then there is the top of the tree or its pinnacle...it's high point.

Which reminds me of the most celebrated place on the tree.

Also it is true with the life of Christ.

We see the humbleness with which He came to be lain in a manger.

The manger made of wood...that was the humble cradle of Christ's birth.

Then we see that center part of Christ's relationship to us... the FULLNESS of God's beautiful love at the cross where Christ gave His life to repair our broken lives.

That is the fullness of God's love.

Then we see the Crown - the high point of God's rein

and rule over life and death that He was not defeated on that tree at Calvary but that at the cross of Christmas He truly showed Himself to be King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

There on the true cross of Christmas He conquered death and gave the victory to all who trust Him.

Note:

## **1. THE HUMBLE CRADLE OF OUR LORD**

He was born in a stable and his bed was a manger.

The Lord came to us in a very humble form.

He came as a child.

Some may say why would the Lord be born in such a way – in a stable with a manger as a bed?

That's where lambs were born, and fed.

We also need to remember that we must humbly admit that we are broken because of sin and that only God through Jesus Christ can put us together again.

We often hear of child-like faith. Like a child we must trust Him to forgive us and save us.

Not only do we see the Humble birth and Cradle but note also:

## 2. THE HONORING CROSS

Jesus came to earth to do the will of God the Father.

There is a song that I enjoy listening to entitled “Oh What a Saviour” however there is a line in this song that is not scriptural.

O What a Saviour

Once I was straying in sin’s dark valley  
No hope within could I see  
**They searched through Heaven**  
And found a Savior  
To save a poor lost soul like me

[CHORUS]

O what a Savior, O hallelujah  
His heart was broken on Calvary  
His hands were nail scarred  
His side was riven  
He gave His life-blood for even me

Death’s chilly water I’ll soon be crossing  
His hand will lead me safe ore

I'll join the chorus in that great city  
And sing up there for evermore

{Repeat Chorus, }

He gave his life-blood for even me  
O what a Savior

I agree with "O What a Saviour" but there was no search in Heaven for a Saviour, because Christ was the Saviour before the foundation of the world.

**1 Peter 1:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup> Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; <sup>19</sup> But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: <sup>20</sup> Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, <sup>21</sup> Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.*

This is how the Son honored the Father by obedience to God's will.

As you look at the Christmas tree this year I hope that it reminds you of the obedience Jesus had to honoring the Father even to the point of placing His life on the

original Christmas tree...the cross.

Do we honor God with such obedience?

It was his Humble Cradle and His Honoring the Father on the Cross that makes the celebration of Christmas possible.

Not only do we see the Humble birth and Cradle, and the Honoring of the Father on the Cross but note lastly the top of the tree:

### 3. Heavenly Crown

Do you remember the question King Herod was asked by the wisemen as they were on their way to find the Saviour?

Note:

#### **Matthew 2:1-2**

*<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> Saying, **Where is he that is born King of the Jews?** for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.*

Note these men didn't ask where can we find the baby.

They knew that would find more than a baby...they were looking for The King.

You see Jesus really is King of kings and Lord of lords

His is the crown of heaven and of earth.

Note:

***Colossians 1:15-20***

*<sup>15</sup> Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: <sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. <sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; <sup>20</sup> And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.*

Jesus wears the heavenly crown as ruler over all creation, heaven and earth and because of God's great love for you...He sent a Savior.

Close:

Don't miss the greatest gift of Christmas...

Remember:

The humble cradle – A manger

An honoring cross – The Obedience of Christ

And never forget the heavenly crown – For He is the  
King of kings and Lord of Lords.

As we look at a Christmas tree this year may we see  
Christ.