

## Jesus is Real to Me

Luke 1:30-33 (NRSV)

**<sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."**

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to the Gospel of Luke 1:30-33, as we lift up the Name of the Lord. Our topic today is "Jesus is Real to Me."

Good morning beloved. It's evident that all humanity can be assured that God has a plan and a purpose for everything He does. You can count on it. In fact, the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is not some factionary novel, but it is the manifestation of God's will for your life and my life. We are so grateful to the prophets, biblical scholars, and scribes of the scriptures for allowing God to use them in a magnificent way. God used them so that we would have the scriptures in what we know today as the Holy Bible; which records God's plan and purpose for sending Jesus into the world.

As we reflect on God's purpose and plan for humanity, it's important to note that the Bible records that God's plan for the creation of humankind was to have a people to be God's visible representatives for the world. Have you ever thought about this concept? The point is that God is an invisible spirit. You can't see Him. Therefore, the invisible God's plan is to reveal himself in a visible manner.

Now the Bible teaches us (Genesis) that the first human

representatives were Adam and Eve. In fact, God created them in His own image and likeness. God also provided instructions to them so that they could carry out His plan as His representatives. Initially, they followed God's plan, but they violated God's plan to accept a substitute recommended to them by God's adversary (Satan).

The Lord, Our God, was not pleased with their decision, but the disobedience of humanity can't stop God's plan. In God's own time, He called on Abraham, who later became known as Abram. Abram became the father of a people whom God would develop into a nation. The great people would come to be known as the Israelites. They would become distinguished from all the nations around them and God would set them apart as His visible representative for the world.

As in the case of Adam and Eve, the people of Israel became attracted to the life and religious practices of the nations that surrounded them. This attraction led the people to desire to be more like the other nations than to represent God. To make matters worse, the people desired a human king to represent them and to lead them. Do you see where this is going? They saw that other nations had a king and they wanted a human king; like them. God was not pleased because while the nation had previously trusted God as their king, they had strayed away forsaking God in favor of a human king. Have you ever felt yourself drifting in the wrong direction? Spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally?

Though God was not happy, He told Samuel, (the prophet), to grant Israel their wish anyway but to warn them of the danger of a human king. The people chose Saul. When Saul became king, he had great success as long as he followed God's plan. In time, Saul

became disobedient, substituting his (Saul's) plan for God's plan and sought out his own desires. Saul's disobedience grieved God, and God rejected Saul as the leader of Israel. Can you see the pattern?

The next king God chose Himself. A young shepherd boy, by the name of David was taken from the pasture tending the sheep to be the next King of Israel. David loved God and was a man after God's own heart. (1 Samuel 13:14). Toward the latter part of David's life, God promised He would make his name great, that his house and his kingdom would endure, and that his throne would be established forever. God's promises were real. These promises were not for David alone, but were for all of the Lord's people; everywhere; and in God's time they were completely fulfilled.

As we look at the text, it's important to understand that roughly 700 years after Isaiah's prophecy, the prophecies spoken to Abraham and David, and through the prophet Isaiah were fulfilled. They were fulfilled as God Himself enters human history in the form of a baby (Jesus Christ). Mary, a humble, young woman, was chosen to bring the promised Messiah, into the world:

**<sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:31-33)**

In closing, Real, Real, Jesus is real to me. Oh, Yes, He gives me the victory. So many people doubt Him. I can't live without Him. That is why I love Him So. He's so real to me. He's a Father to the fatherless. He's a Mother to the motherless. He's a lawyer in the courtroom. He's a doctor in the sickroom. "Jesus is Real to Me."

He's a Savior. He's a mighty good friend. Hallelujah, Jesus is Real to me. And you know what...The Lord is available to you today.

Romans 10:9-11 says that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. Everybody sing... Real, real, Jesus is real to me. Oh, yes, he gives me victory. So many, many people doubt him. I can't live without him. That is why I love him so. He's so real to me. Hallelujah, Amen.