

CHRISTMAS: DECLARING THE GOOD NEWS!

“Splendor Behind Scandal”

12/17/06

Jesus was doubly poor. Not only did He “*empty Himself*” of the glorious riches of heaven (Philippians 2:7-8) in order to live among us as one who had “*nowhere to lay His head*” (Luke 9:58), but through it all, His reputation was stained again and again. I want to provide a few examples and then ask the question – WHY???

SCANDAL: HIS BIRTH –

Jesus’ mother was pregnant before she was married.

BUT...THE SPLENDOR –

SCANDAL: HIS LIFE & TIMES –

EXAMPLE #1 = CONTRASTING STYLES (JOHN & JESUS).

“To what shall I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the market places”

(Matthew 11:16).

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon!’ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Behold, a gluttonous man and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’”

(Matthew 11:18-19 NASB).

BUT...THE SPLENDOR -

EXAMPLE #2 = HEALING ON THE SABBATH.

The healing of the man born blind in John 9...

“¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. ‘He put mud on my eyes,’ the man replied, ‘and I washed, and now I see.’ ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, ‘This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.’”

BUT...THE SPLENDOR –

EXAMPLE #3 = DELIVERING MANY FROM BONDAGE.

“He casts out demons by the prince of demons”

(Matthew 9:34).

“You are a Samaritan and have a demon”

(John 8:48).

“He is demon-possessed and raving mad. Why listen to Him?”

(John 10:20).

BUT...THE SPLENDOR –

A *“house divided against itself cannot stand”*

(Matthew 12:25).

WHY?