

MEEK AND LOWLY

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It's Christmas time once again and many things preoccupy our minds at this time of year. Many of us are planning for family gatherings, attending events and carol concerts, baking cakes and making goodies, shopping for clothes and gifts or for those of us who are more creative, it is time to plan a new Christmas theme or make handmade decorations that are unique and original! Some of us may be finalizing travel plans to visit other lands or join our near and dear ones living overseas. So many things to look forward to and to anticipate!

In the hustle, bustle, glitter and glow of festivities, often dictated by the culture around us, we tend to unwittingly relegate the most significant Person, 'the reason for the season' to a place of secondary importance. We exchange what's real for what's make believe. Jesus is diminished to that little wood, ceramic or plastic figurine we place in a crib scene. We forget what Christ actually came for. He came to make known to us mere created beings, what our great and awesome Creator God is really like; what He embodies and desires in us His chosen children - in a way that would resonate with everyone.

The whole narrative of our Lord Jesus' birth is couched in meekness and lowliness. God chose the common not the exalted, to execute His magnum opus! The King of kings and Lord of lords chose a poor carpenter and a humble, obedient young girl to be His earthly parents. He was born in a lowly cattle shed. No silken sheets or downy pillows cradled His royal head. He was wrapped in some old, soft swaddling cloths and laid in a manger. His birth was not proclaimed with pomp and fanfare but wondrously and selectively, to a handful of insignificant people - shepherds tending their flocks at night who heard the angelic hosts proclaim, 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests', and to three sincere seekers from the east, who brought Him significant gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. As one writer puts it, "God took the most spectacular event and clothed it in the deepest humility".

There are many ways by which the world defines humility. But, true humility lies in recognizing and acknowledging God as the source of all goodness in our lives and in taking no glory or pride whatsoever in ourselves. God unveiled His amazing, wonderful and awesome plan - to redeem and restore us, His estranged children to Himself- through the very humble birth, life, death and resurrection of His only begotten Son, our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ. It was not just a plan but also a template and example of humility for us His redeemed people to emulate and follow. As we plan our celebrations, may we be mindful of all that this commemoration implies and reflect and display Christ's meekness and lowliness and God's selfless love and kindness, to a hurting and needy world.