

Luke 2:1-20

Big Problem, Bigger Solution

Are you familiar with the history of the Nobel Prize. Certainly, most of us if not all of us have heard of the Nobel Peace Prize. But did you know there are 4 other Prizes. The Nobel Prize is the brainchild of Alfred Nobel. It was established at the time of his death in 1896. I want to share this excerpt from his will that established this most prestigious award. It reads as follows:

“All of my remaining realisable assets are to be disbursed as follows: the capital, converted to safe securities by my executors, is to constitute a fund, the interest on which is to be distributed annually as prizes to those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind. The interest is to be divided into five equal parts and distributed as follows: one part to the person who made the most important discovery or invention in the field of physics; one part to the person who made the most important chemical discovery or improvement; one part to the person who made the most important discovery within the domain of physiology or medicine; one part to the person who, in the field of literature, produced the most outstanding work in an idealistic direction; and one part to the person who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses.”

Those who have been recipients of this prize have addressed and solved many problems facing humanity. For example, Robert G. Edwards was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2010 for the development of in vitro fertilization. Certainly,

this procedure has resulted in pregnancies that otherwise would not have been possible. A blessing to many, I am sure. In 2019 John B. Goodenough, M. Stanley Whittingham and Akira Yoshino were awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the development of lithium-ion batteries. I do not have to go into any detail to explain to any of us what the lithium-ion battery has meant to the world. One final example is Bishop Desmond Tutu. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 “for his role as a unifying leader figure in the non-violent campaign to resolve the problem of apartheid in South Africa”. South Africa is apartheid free today because of his efforts and the efforts of many others. Many problems humanity has faced and many solutions to these problems have been born as a result of our God given ingenuity and creativity. However, there is one problem that no human being has had or will have the capacity to solve. A big problem that every person born into this world faces. It is our foremost problem, and, in truth, all our problems are a result of this problem. Christmas is the day we celebrate God’s solution to that problem, Jesus. Jesus is God’s answer to our biggest problem, sin. As the old folk would say when I was growing up there is no problem that Jesus cannot fix. Most importantly our sin problem. Tonight we celebrate and give thanks to God for the Savior that was given unto us, Jesus the Christ our Lord. V10-11 “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” We had a big problem, but God provided a bigger solution. And no different than that time in which Jesus was born the world was a chaotic place. Oppression, division, occupation, injustice was

rampant, and people were on the move, coming and going. Let us never believe that things are so different today that our response to Christ's birth warrants a different response. And so again I echo these life changing words of the angel, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Merry Christmas! In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.