

PASTOR'S COLUMN

“Christmas - The Feast of the Incarnation - Accepting Jesus on His Own Terms”

I share with you some thoughts taken from Philip Yancey's book, "The Jesus I Never Knew":

“Malcolm Muggeridge observed that in our day, with family-planning clinics offering convenient ways to correct ‘mistakes’ that might disgrace a family name, ‘It is, in point of fact, extremely improbable, under existing conditions, that Jesus would have been permitted to be born at all. Mary’s pregnancy, in poor circumstances, and with the father unknown, would have been an obvious case for an abortion; and her talk of having conceived as a result of the intervention of the Holy Ghost would have pointed to the need for psychiatric treatment, and made the case for terminating her pregnancy even stronger. Thus our generation, needing a Savior more, perhaps, than any that has ever existed, would be too humane to allow one to be born.’

The virgin Mary, though, whose parenthood was unplanned, had a different response. She heard the angel out, pondered the repercussions, and replied, ‘I am the Lord’s servant. May it be to me as you have said.’ Often a work of God comes with two edges, great joy and great pain, and in that matter-of-fact response Mary embraced both. She was the first person to accept Jesus on his own terms, regardless of the personal cost.”

As we continue our journey through this Advent Season and as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas, will we be just having a birthday party for Jesus or will we make our celebration an act of surrender, an act of faith? Will we, like Mary, give our “yes” to God and accept Jesus on His own terms?

F. Mike