



## Sermon Notes: What Kind of King Is This?

### 1. The paradox of the Christmas story.

- a. Seen in the contrast between expectations and reality.
- b. Seen in the contrast between Caesar and Jesus.
  - Caesar was the man who would make himself a god.  
Jesus was the God who would make himself a man!

### 2. The providence of the Christmas story.

- a. God used a tyrant's decree to fulfill an ancient prophecy.
- b. God used shepherds to fulfill another prophecy.

### 3. The power of the Christmas story.

- a. This birth reveals that Jesus is the Savior-King.
- b. This birth reveals what kind of Savior-King Jesus will be.
- c. This birth reveals how we must be saved.

### 4. The practicality of the Christmas story.

- a. The paradox teaches us to hope in the sympathetic resonance of King Jesus.
- b. The providence teaches us to hope in the sovereign plan of King Jesus.
- c. The power teaches us to hope in the glory and grace of King Jesus.



## Application Questions: What Kind of King Is This?

1. What's the most out-of-place thing you've ever seen?
2. When you've read (or heard) The Nativity Story in the past, what stuck out to you? Why?
3. What are some things you've heard associated with The Nativity Story that didn't seem to be present in Luke 2? How do you explain this?
4. Why do you think The Nativity Story has been so widely appreciated, even by non-Christians?
5. Imagine for a moment that Jesus had been born into a wealthy, upper class, educated family with lots of social and religious connections. What do you people would've inferred from that?
6. By contrast, what does it say to us that Jesus was born into the situation he was?
7. Why do you think Luke intentionally created such sharp contrasts between Caesar and Jesus as part of The Nativity Story?
8. What are some things God built into The Nativity Story to prove the identity of Jesus?
9. Review the scientific principle of "sympathetic resonance." What does this have to do with The Nativity Story? How does this affect the way you view your relationship with Christ?
10. How would it impact your day-to-day life if you really believed that God's providence was ultimately working behind the scenes, even during the most difficult times and in spite of the most difficult people?
11. Reread "Mary's Song" by Luci Shaw, if possible. What line stands out to you the most? What are some of the themes you see in this poem? What effect does this have on you?
12. What one way do you need to respond to The Nativity Story this week?