

The Portrait of Jesus

Luke 2:21-24

Luke 2:21-24 – ²¹When the eight days were completed for his circumcision, he was named Jesus—the name given by the angel before he was conceived. ²²And when the days of their purification according to the law of Moses were finished, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord) ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice (according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons). (CSB)

The first portrait of Jesus:

I. He was born of a virgin.

Luke 1:35 – The angel replied to her: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (CSB)

Isaiah 40:8 – The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever. (CSB)

II. He was given the name **Jesus**.

1 Timothy 2:3-6 – ³This is good, and it pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God and one mediator between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time. (CSB)

Titus 3:4-7 – ⁴But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. (CSB)

III. He followed the **law**.

Galatians 4:4-5 – ⁴When the time came to completion, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. (CSB)

Matthew 5:17-18 – ¹⁷“Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things (CSB)

IV. He can relate to **everyone**.

Hebrews 4:15-16 – ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. (CSB)

Thought For The Week:

Does your life reflect the **portrait of Jesus?**

Preparing for your Verse of the Year

1. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?
2. What is one thing you could do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?
3. What is the most humanly impossible thing you will ask God to do this year?
4. What is the single most important thing you could do to improve the quality of your family this year?
5. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year, and what will you do about it?
6. What is the single biggest time-waster in your life, and what will you do about it this year?
7. What is the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?
8. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?
9. What is the most important way you will, by God's grace, try to make this year different from last year?
10. What single thing that you plan to do this year will matter most in ten years? In eternity?