

One of Us  
Luke 2:1-20

There is a classic story about a man who was a scrooge. He cared nothing about Christmas. All this talking about the Son of God coming into world as a baby didn't make any sense at all.

On Christmas Eve a great snow storm blew in. It was bitterly cold. But the man's wife and children carefully bundled up in their winter clothes to go to the Christmas Eve services at their church. They begged him to come too, as they did every year. And he said, "No," again, as he did every year. So, his family piled into their car and drove on to church without him.

The man waited in the garage as they left out, so that he could pull the door down. Their garage was heated, so he didn't freeze in the cold.

As he walked to the end of the garage he looked out and saw a flock of birds that had gotten caught in the sudden winter storm. They were obviously in great distress. The man's heart went out to them. He thought to himself, "This garage is warm. If the birds would come in here, they would be all right." He left the door open and went back in the house and watched to see if the birds would go into the garage. They didn't.

So, he put on his coat and went out and tried to shoo the birds into the garage. That didn't work at all. They flew up into the trees until he left. Then they flew back into his yard.

He came up with a new idea. He took a loaf of bread and opened it and threw the bread into the garage. He hoped the bread would lure the birds into the garage. But it didn't.

The man watched the birds suffering in the cold unnecessarily. He thought and thought about how he might get the birds to come into the warm and save them from the cold. He thought to himself, "The only way I could save them would be if I were to become a bird myself. Then I could fly out there to them and tell them about this shelter. I could lead them into the warm garage, and they would follow me to safety."

As he thought about that, suddenly he understood Christmas. He understood that God was even more concerned about us than the man was for that flock of birds. He saw that God was determined to save us. He realized that God wouldn't force us to be saved. God couldn't lure us into salvation with promises. God had to become one of us and come to us and lead us to salvation.

A little while later the man's wife and children heard the door into the church open and a flurry of snow came blowing into the sanctuary. As the snow cleared they saw him walking down the aisle to join them.

The man wanted to come to church to celebrate the birth of the Son of God and to give thanks to God for coming to be with us to lead us into salvation.

And that is why we are here tonight. In the midst of all the Christmas celebrations, let us not forget that we are celebrating an astounding event. On Christmas Day our God became one of us. Our God became a baby to be with us and to lead us into salvation.

This is a day to celebrate. Let us rejoice and give thanks. Our Savior has come to us!

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