

## What if Jesus had Never Been Born?

Today we consider, “What if Jesus had never been born?”

- Is it impossible for human beings to do good things and treat each other well outside of Jesus?
- We are not good people. I am not a good person.
- People are looking for worth, meaning, significance. To do so, however, human beings bite and devour each other.
- Jesus provided the reason and the ultimate example.

### **The world rejects, but Jesus accepts all people — Luke 5:12-13**

Because of Jesus:

- Hospitals
- Infanticide

### **The world discards, but Jesus protects — Luke 20:45-47, 21:1-4**

Because of Jesus:

- Widow burning in India—until 1830's
- Salvation army
- Red cross
- Habitat for humanity

### **The world holds down, but Jesus lifts up — John 4:1-25**

Because of Jesus:

- Elevation of women
- Education/literacy
- Emancipation of slavery
- Gladiator games outlawed

Satan aims to desacralize life. Repentance isn't just, “stop sinning”. Sometimes it's changing one's mindset about that which is sacred.

What if Jesus had never been born?

- Would not humanity continue in our infighting, self-promotion, etc.?
- Wouldn't people always have the question, do I have worth? Do I matter?

## O Holy Night

- O holy night the stars are brightly shining
- It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
- Long lay the world in sin and error pining
- Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
- A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
- For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

The birth of Jesus is screaming, if only we might hear it, that we do have sacredness, value, worth, dignity.

## **James Allen Francis—One Solitary Life**

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied him. He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his garments, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave, through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned--put together--have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one, solitary life.