

“ Whose Birthday Is It Anyway ? ”

“ An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” which means, “God with us”. (Matthew 1:20-23)

Some years ago, a friend of mine had a surprise birthday party for me. The guests were invited, the location arranged, and the food was prepared.

The appointed time arrived, and so did the guests, the “birthday boy” was greeted by a great, loud unison “surprise”, and the party began.

Shortly after the party began, the host of the party had a surprise himself, relatives from out of town showed up and the host and his relatives left the party to “spend some time alone together”.

Needless to say I was very upset that anyone would make a great effort to have a party for me and then forget about me and go and do their own thing. I felt like this was quite rude and unacceptable. Think of it - to have a party and then forget the real reason for celebration.

It was a real disappointment, I wish that the people would have just forgotten about my birthday. To see that just any distraction would take the focus away from the real purpose of the occasion; to celebrate the guest of honor’s birthday.

In a few short days we will have a birthday party – for a King! Presents will be bought, guests will be invited, songs will be sung, great crowds will gather for celebrating the King’s birthday; **yet will He somehow be forgotten ?**

We will work extra hard to make sure that the children get their requests for dolls, video games, and all of the newest “in” things. As adults, we will struggle to get something that will please them, and not something that they have a dozen of already. **Will there be time to recognize the King ?**

Some will say: I hope Christmas Eve service doesn’t last too long, that preacher has a habit of preaching to long, and you know that’s the time we open our gifts as a family. The preacher always asks us to give a generous offering for the poor and he should know that our credit cards are already “maxed out”. **Will there be time to recognize the King ?**

Will the King be the center of the celebration, or will He feel, as I did, that we should have just let the day pass, because we surely didn’t celebrate His birthday.

Whose birthday is it anyway ? A king is born ! They call Him, “Immanuel - God is with us” ! They call Him, “Jesus – our Lord and Savior” ! Celebrate in His name !