

KNIGHT TEMPLAR MAGAZINE ARTICLE No. 8

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Sir Knights –

With each passing month, we come a little closer to a time of year that every one of us, as dedicated Knights Templar, reveres: that time of year when we celebrate and glorify the birth of our Lord and Saviour. We've moved through the summer months into the fall, and as the days grow shorter and we approach this most holy of holidays, it will behoove us to take a few moments and think about some of the meaning of what Templar Masonry is all about.

Are you familiar with the story of "The Man and the Birds?" It's a story not heard very often, but has deep meaning. As told by noted broadcast commentator Paul Harvey, it relates to a man who just couldn't buy into the idea of God coming to earth in the form of a human being. One Christmas Eve, not wishing to be hypocritical, he stayed home instead of attending church with his wife and family. As the snow began to fall, he heard a disturbance caused by a flock of birds which, in search of shelter, had literally tried to fly through his picture window. Rather than letting them lie there and freeze, he decided to try to direct them into his barn, where they would find a warm shelter. But the birds didn't seem to want to trust him, and seemed to be afraid of him. He thought, "If only I could find a way to let them know that they can trust me – that I am not trying to hurt them, but trying to help them. If only I could be a bird, and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could show them the way to the safe, warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see, and hear, and understand." And at that moment, the church bells began to ring, and to peal the glad tidings of Christmas. And he sank to his knees in the snow.

Two thousand years ago, a little baby was born. Not to parents of noble lineage, but into relative poverty. He selected as His friends and followers the downtrodden, the meek, and the uneducated, who knew little more as a way of life than unending daily struggles just to eke out an existence. And He taught principles and qualities that could be the hallmarks of all people, and not just the well-to-do. "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.... Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.... Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God."

Our Lord came to us from humble surroundings, and tried to teach us to maintain humble ways that will allow us to be better servants of our Father in Heaven. In this season of celebration, may we keep these thoughts in mind, and continue to live up to those ideals that will help us to help others, and to strive to create a better world. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord....Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men." (Luke 2:11-14).

As Knights Templars, we have promised to defend the religion that glorifies our Blessed Redeemer, believing with all our hearts and souls that He came to provide our salvation

and to make the world a better place for all mankind. I want to encourage you to be present as your Commandery celebrates the most wondrous occasion of all time. During the Holiday Season, our Christmas Observances will take place at various times, so you may have an opportunity to attend more than one. I hope I'll see you there so that we may join together in a celebration of the birth and life of our Lord and Saviour.

It's Your Rite!

Fraternally,

William B. Brunk
Grand Commander
Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina