



## Broadcast Transcript

**Broadcast:** His Unequaled Birth

**Guest(s):** Pastor Adrian Rogers

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Dr. Dobson: Well, Merry Christmas everyone. And welcome to another edition of Family Talk. I'm James Dobson and I hope you're having a wonderful day with your loved ones.

Announcer: Today on Family Talk.

Dr. Dobson: Thank you for spending part of this day with us when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. I've chosen a very special message for you today which was delivered on a Christmas Sunday morning a number of years ago. And it features the words of Dr. Adrian Rogers. He was like a brother to me before his passing on November 15, 2005. He was pastor for decades of the Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee and I loved him dearly.

So, we're going to hear this powerful Christmas message about the birth of Christ. I know today is a busy day for families, with all of the activities and the food and the things that occur. But maybe you can pause for just a few minutes to hear the words of a great minister, back from eternity, if you will, as he brings again the truth of the Gospel.

Adrian Rogers: Take God's word and turn if you will to Luke 2, the Christmas story. I'm going to begin reading in the verse one of Luke 2.

Upon an occasion I had an opportunity to witness to Muhammad Ali and I had prayed much about it and God arranged it where we could be together in a small room, late at night actually before one of his fights. And we were talking about Jesus Christ and I had had a prayer in my heart that this man might receive Christ has his personal Lord and Savior.

And he was studying the Islamic faith. And so we were talking back and forth and he challenged me with this question, he said, "You say that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because he was born of virgin. He didn't have an earthly father."

Then he said to me, "Adam didn't have a father or a mother. Wouldn't that make Adam more a son of God than Jesus?"

And I said, "Champ, I want you to understand this, Jesus was not the Son of God because he was born of a virgin. He was born of a virgin because he was the Son of God."

You see, Jesus did not have his start in Bethlehem. Jesus stepped out of the glory, as we've already told you, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." We're going to be talking today about the virgin birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now, I'm aware that the world laughs at the idea of a virgin birth. They think of that as some sort of primitive, medieval superstition or something. They laugh, they mock at the idea of the virgin birth.

I can tell you furthermore, the devil hates the idea of the virgin birth because it teaches both the humanity and the deity of his nemesis in our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. But worse than the mockery of this world and the hatred of Satan is the ignorance of many so-called Christians concerning the virgin birth. Many of them doubt it. Some don't believe it at all. And others think that it is incidental.

Friend, I want to show you in this message that you have no hope of salvation apart from the virgin birth. I want to show you that if you take away the virgin birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, you have destroyed the whole foundation of Christianity and it will all collapse like a house of cards. It is not incidental, it is fundamental.

Three thoughts. First of all, I want you to think of the sacred mystery of his birth. Now go back to chapter one. The angel has announced to Mary that she is going to be with child. Now Mary is a virgin. She is espoused to a man named Joseph, but they have not come together in the act of marriage. The ceremony has not yet transpired. They are not living together as husband and wife. And yet the angel Gabriel says, "Mary, you're going to have a baby."

Now, she asks a very pertinent question. Beginning in verse 34, "Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be?" Big question. How is this going to happen? This is a mystery to me. "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" In other words, know not literally means that she has not had sexual relations with a man.

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee." Underscore "the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin, Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God," underscore this now, folks, you might underscore this next phrase two or three times, "For with

God nothing shall be impossible." Can you say amen to that? Now if you have difficulty with that, you're going to have difficulty with the virgin birth.

"For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."

Now, we're talking about the mystery of the virgin birth. May I tell you that the virgin birth does not depend upon your understanding for its validation? Is that okay? You don't have to understand it to validate it. There are a lot of things we don't understand. We don't understand how a brown cow can eat green grass and give white milk that turns to yellow butter. We don't understand that. Folks, I'm telling you a lot of things we don't understand but we experience. The late great Vance Abner said, "I don't understand electricity, but I'm not going to sit around in the dark until I do."

Now, Mary asked a question, a good question. "How can this be, seeing I know not a man?" There's some people who say is not the idea of a virgin birth, is that not a biological impossibility? Again, I want to tell you that God can do anything he well pleases because he is God.

I have no difficulty with the virgin birth if I believe in creation. Friend, I've often said if you can get past Genesis 1:1, you're home free concerning miracles. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." You have difficulty believing in a virgin birth? Listen to me, precious friend, God made the first man without a father or a mother, out of nothing. It may be a mystery to you, but it is not a mystery to God.

Don't worry if you can't explain the virgin birth. You couldn't explain the virgin birth any more than you could explain God. When you can explain God, then perhaps you can explain the virgin birth. You see, there is this sacred mystery of the virgin birth. Great is the mystery of godliness. We join Mary in saying, "How can this be?" And we join the angel when we say, "With God all things are possible." And God's people said? Amen. Settled. That's it. God did it. If you have difficulty believing the virgin birth, I'll tell you what your real difficulty is, your God is too small. Your God is too small.

Second point, I want you to see not only the sacred mystery of it, but I want you to see, and this is very important, the saving ministry of the virgin birth.

Now let's begin in Luke 2:8, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." That means they were scared out of their wits.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of

David," and underscore this phrase, "a Savior." "A savior which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The virgin birth and the incarnation, that is God being made flesh, was necessary for our salvation. Now I want you to follow me here. God gave Adam and Eve dominion in the Garden of Eden. They sinned and they lost that dominion. They forfeited it. They turned it over to Satan. And rather than being servants of God, they became slaves of Satan. And they infected the entire human race with sin.

Our dominion was lost by a man. The only way it can ever be returned to us is by another man. And that other man is the Lord Jesus. All of us today are represented by one of two men, either Adam or Jesus. In Adam all die, in Christ all are made alive. They're really only two men who have ever lived and the rest of us are part and partial of those two men.

Now, Jesus Christ, the last Adam, came born of a virgin to undo what the first Adam did. Now apart from the virgin birth, therefore, there is no hope of salvation. Well, how did he come to undo what the first Adam did? Well the Bible clearly and plainly teaches that the wages of sin is death. The soul that sinneth, it shall surely die. And the Bible says without shedding of blood is no remission.

Now sin must be paid for. It must be atoned and it must be atoned by shed blood. God in Spirit has no blood. God is Spirit, the Bible says. The great eternal I Am is Spirit. Well, the great eternal I Am cannot die. The great eternal I Am cannot bleed. But this salvation was lost by man. This dominion was lost by man. Therefore, it must be redeemed by man. For without shedding of blood there is no remission.

But not just any man can do, this man must be a perfect man. He must be sinless. And he also must be innocent. Now listen, we're all sons and daughters of Adam by birth. And no son or daughter of Adam can qualify. Why? Put in your Bible Romans 5:12 in your margin, the Bible says, "Wherefore, as by one man," his name is Adam, "sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

Now had Jesus Christ been born like we were born, he would have been a son of Adam. Had he been a son of Adam, he would have been a sinner. Had he been a sinner, he could not have been innocent. Had he not been innocent, he could have been nobody's substitute, not mine, not yours, nobody else's. The only sin he could die for would be his own.

Now God wants us saved. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that we might be saved. And so therefore, God's answer is a man, but a sinless man. A perfect man. The God man, the Lord Jesus Christ. Someone who was both truly human and fully sinless. Human, that he might undo what the first Adam did, that he might shed blood, but that blood must be sinless blood.

Whose blood was in that baby? The blood of God circulated through that little baby in its mother's womb. Sinless blood, innocent blood. That's the reason I said you take away the virgin birth, you have no hope of heaven. He was born of a virgin that we might be born again. He came to earth that we might go to heaven. He became the son of man that we might become the sons and the daughters of God. That's what it's all about. That is why we have the virgin birth. Now, had he not been born of a virgin, he would have been a son of Adam.

Mendel, who did his great work in genetics, said this concerning genetics, "Every individual is the sum total of the characteristics recessive or dominant in its two progenitors." Every individual, everybody here is the sum total of the characteristics, recessive or dominant, in its two progenitors, that is its two parents. Now let me put that in plain English, all that was in your father and mother is in you.

Now suppose the parents of the Lord Jesus Christ had been both deity, God plus God. Then he would have been God because all that was in his parents was in him. He would have been God, fully God, yes, perfectly God. But there'd be no humanity there. Oh, he would be remote, unapproachable. There's no way that he could save.

Well, suppose that the parents of the Lord Jesus Christ had not been God plus God, but human plus human. Then Jesus would have been fully human. He would have inherited the characteristics of his father and his mother and in Adam all die, he would have been a sinner and could have been nobody's savior.

But now let's suppose that his father, not suppose but learn, that his father is truly God. His mother is truly human. Then who is he? He is God in human flesh. He is the God man. Not half God and half man. Not all God and no man. Not all man and no God. He is the only begotten Son of God. He is the only one qualified to die upon that cross for our salvation. Never overlook, never knock the virgin birth. Thank God that God stepped out of heaven and was born of a virgin. That's the reason the angel said, "This is good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people."

Now, I come to the third and final point. I have talked about the sacred mystery of his birth. I have talked about the saving ministry of his birth. Let me talk to you about the sovereign majesty of his birth.

Look again in Luke 1, let's begin in verse 30, "And the angel said unto her," the angel now is Gabriel, her is Mary, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS." And by the way, the name Jesus, "And he shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David."

Now we're talking about the sovereign majesty of this baby. The throne of his father David. "And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Now as the Son of God, he shares the nature of God. Like father, like son. Who is this baby, virgin born? Plain, straight, simple, listen to me, he is God in human flesh. Now the liberal theologians do not accept this. Let me tell you what the Bible says, put it in your margin, Hebrews 1:8, "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God," now listen, he's talking to the Son. To the Son, S-O-N, he saith, "Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom."

This baby is as much God as if it's not man at all. He is the earthly child of a heavenly Father and the heavenly child of an earthly mother. That little baby, lying in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes, with his dimpled feet touching the straw, is the mighty God of Genesis 1:1. Do you believe it? I believe it.

The Apostle John believed it. John 1:1-3, listen, "In the beginning was the Word," the Word is another name for Jesus. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God," now here it comes, "and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made."

He made the manger that he lie in. He is God from everlasting. Jesus did not begin with Mary in Bethlehem, he existed as ageless with his Father in heaven. As has been well said, when he was born he was as ageless as his Father and older than his mother. And he has come to rule and to reign. What's the world coming to? It's coming to Jesus. His is the cradle that will rock the world. You can believe that.

One day our dear Savior is going to step out of the glory and those blessed nail pierced feet will touch the Mount of Olives and there will be a great earthquake. And Jesus is going to make his way to Jerusalem and the government shall be upon his shoulders. Pick up any newspaper and you know there is something tragically wrong with our world. And it looks like we're looking into the barrel of a loaded canon. There can be no real peace without the Prince of peace.

The answer to this world's problems is the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the hope of the individual, the hope of the church, the hope of the family, the hope of this nation, and the hope of this world is Jesus Christ.

Some time ago a lady received a telegram. The telegram told her that she had inherited a fortune. In this day, when a million dollars was truly a million dollars, she had inherited more than a million dollars. She was flabbergasted. She didn't even know that she had a relative that had that kind of money. She was so excited she didn't know what to do. She was home by herself, she went to the telephone, picked it up and said, "Operator! Get me somebody on the line, anybody, anybody. I want to tell them what has happened."

Shouldn't we feel that way about Jesus? Oh, I just want to tell people about the Lord Jesus Christ. Why the virgin birth? He came to earth that we might go to heaven. The whole purpose is wrapped up in a substitutionary death. You see, the Bible says, "All we like sheep have gone astray. We've turned to everyone to his own way and the Lord hath laid on him," on Jesus, "the iniquity of us all." You are a sinner, you know. You know that the Bible says the wages of sin is death. You know that you are destined and doomed to eternity without Christ if something is not done about your sin. Because I can tell you there's one thing God will not do and that is he will never overlook your sin. Is this getting through?

There you are and there's your sin. Here's Jesus, virgin born, the sinless Son of God. No taint in him. No sin in him. No blame on him. And the Bible says, "And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." Our sins are laid on Jesus. The sinless one carried those sins to the cross. And in agony and blood, he died upon that cross to pay our sin debt. Because our sin is on Jesus, thank God, his righteousness is on us. That's good news. That's good news.

And the Bible says it clearly, plainly, simply, sweetly, sublimely, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." If I could do it for you, I would. God knows I preached as best I know how. God wants you saved. Why should you die and go to hell when we have such a wonderful salvation? Why?

Now if you're not saved, truly saved, this is the time when you need to get saved. And I want to lead you in a prayer and in this prayer you can pray and receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord.

Pray this way: Lord God, I confess that I am a sinner, that I need to be saved. Jesus, you died to save me, you promised to save me if I would trust you. I do trust you. I believe you shed your blood on the cross to pay for my sin. I believe that God raised you from the dead and I now receive you by faith as my personal Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin, cleanse me, save me, come into my life and begin now to make me the person you want me to be.

Dr. Dobson:

Oh, what an amazing message from Pastor Adrian Rogers on this Christmas day. God is offering you the only perfect gift you will ever receive, life eternal. God wants you to be saved and he shows that path to salvation, as Dr. Rogers said, clearly, plainly, simply, sweetly, and sublimely.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. If you don't know him as your Lord and personal Savior, I implore you to take that step right now. Let hope and peace and life be born in you today, just as it was into the world more than 2,000 years ago. And if you accept that truth today, on his birthday, we would love to hear you tell us about it.

This is James Dobson saying God bless and Merry Christmas and we'll see you again for another edition of Dr. James Dobson's Family Talk.

Announcer: This has been a presentation of the Dr. James Dobson Family Institute.