



December 19, 2007

Sheer Innocence

By Teresa Hampton

Everyone is talking right now about Jesus. What joy! Minds are drawn to his birth. You know, newborns have the look of sheer innocence that can melt a heart of stone. I'm sure baby Jesus was no exception. His little soul was spotless, sinless, without fault. And never, not even once, did he blemish his soul as he grew into a man.

That's the reason why Pilate wanted to release him. Three times he told the mob, "*I find no fault in him*" (John 18:38, 19:4,6). Jesus was not just innocent of a criminal offense, he was innocent through and through! So, when I read of his death, I don't see a man on the cross. I see the look of sheer innocence, the soul of a newborn Jesus, a soul that was as sinless as the day he was born.

Why bring all these things to mind at such a cheery time of year? Shouldn't we be joyful? Yes! Let us rejoice because, with immeasurable love and grace, God chose to send us his son, born of a woman (Matthew 1: 23). Let us rejoice that for now everyone is talking about him. But let us never forget that the purpose of his beautiful birth...was his ugly death, and the purpose of his ugly death...was a beautiful *victory* over death.

Everyone is talking about Jesus. There's no better time to share with others the beautiful, sheer innocence of his entire life. He still has what it takes to melt a heart of stone!

Today's Verse: "*...you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot*" (1 Peter 18-19).

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