

## A CRADLE. A TABLE. A CROSS.

- **A CRADLE:** common...yet profound...
  - A simple manger, a lowly manger. **Low** enough to accommodate a working-class woman child. **Low** enough that astonished shepherds could lean in and look upon a baby's radiant face. **Low** enough to be a perfect fit for a child-like faith.
  - **Low** enough yet **high** enough as well...
  - **High** enough that kings and dignitaries could bow down and look up to see divine life in human form, to gaze upon prophetic fulfillment wrapped in humanity. **High** enough to cause the wisest and richest to prostrate themselves in worshipful adoration. **High** enough to create an unceasing sense of wonder in the hearts and minds of scholars and rulers alike.
  
- **A CROSS:** a cradle, but also a cross.
  - Rugged and crude, yet magnificent and lofty.
  - **Low** enough that it could be born on a man's back and burned into his heart. **Low** enough to bear the curse of sin, that burdens all the inhabitants of the earth. **Low** enough to pierce the depths of hell and decimate its machinery of hate and death. **Low** enough for all men to hear the dying words of the Savior's lips..." Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!"
  - **Low** enough yet **high** enough as well...
  - **High** enough. **High** enough for Jesus to draw all men into Himself. **High** enough to become the focal point of all human history. **High** enough to confound and defy human reason. **High** enough to be the consummate display for Divine Wisdom. **High** enough for the blood that Jesus shed to cover all the sins of all the people ever born from every nation, tribe, and tongue. **High** enough for every spiritual power in heavenly places to hear and cringe at the judgement rendered them by these triumphant words spoken from the cross: **IT IS FINISHED!**
  
- **A TABLE:** a cradle, a cross, but also a table.
  - Plain and ordinary yet celebrated and honored.
  - **Low** enough...**low** enough that all believers of every age could come to it and worship. **Low** enough to bear the symbols of His death...His purifying blood and His broken body. **Low** enough to proclaim the sacrificial offering of a sinless life for the iniquities of fallen men. **Low** enough for all to come and touch and receive.
  - **Low** enough yet **high** enough as well. **High** enough to endure and outlast all the rituals of all the ages. **High** enough to herald the power of life that

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overcame the grave. **High** enough to proclaim the blood that washes clean the impurities of the sinful heart. **High** enough to be the meeting place of a merciful God and a forgiven sinner. **High** enough to cause His Spirit to search our hearts and create right motives within us. **High** enough to represent all that God has done for us in His Son.

### **A cradle, a table, and a cross.**

**A Cradle:** where a sinless human life came into this world.

**A Cross:** where that sinless life was given for you and me.

**A Table:** where we recall that birth, and remember that death, and celebrate the resurrection and ascension that followed.

**A Table** that links the gift of His life and the gift of His death with the gift of forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.

### **A cradle, a cross, a table...**

**Low** enough to bring God's life to earth for our salvation, **high** enough to touch us with His power for our transformation.

**Low** enough to get Him to us, **high** enough to get us to Him.

**A cradle, a cross, a table...**this Christmas, may we receive them all, believe them all, and rejoice in them all. **He has first loved us that we might forever love and be loved by Him.**

**A cradle; a cross; a table;** these represent far more than a seasonal sentiment or a religious ritual or liturgy. They represent the relational-reality of God; very God, the God of heaven, sending the Spirit of God to live in your life; to take residence in your heart as you place your faith in His son Jesus Christ.

Who would like to experience the new life in Jesus represented by **the cradle, the cross, and the table?**