

Sunday School Lesson

(Continued from Page 7)

Jesus Christ is completely human? It does not mean that he is only a man, but it does mean that in his manhood he is just like every other man except for sin. The story of his birth tells us that he was born of human flesh; he was formed in the body of Mary. He did not appear mysteriously, like a phantom who resembles a man but who is in fact some other kind of crea-

ture. He is the Word become flesh.

The humanity of Jesus has been beautifully stated by Gordon Kaufman: "Jesus, then, the object of Christian faith, was a man, no demigod or heavenly being concealed behind a human facade. He was born a human being, laughed and cried and played and learned like any child, labored as an ordinary carpenter, finally suffered a violent death at the hands of his fellows. He sorrowed and re-

joiced, hoped and feared, like any other man. He experienced the needs which all men know: for food, shelter, emotional response, security, etc.; and he suffered the limitations of his fellows."

When we tell the story of the Virgin Birth, we are saying again, "Jesus was truly a man."

Summary

This brief account of the doctrine of the Virgin Birth and its importance shows a few of the meanings this doctrine may have

for the Christian. There are others, of course. But these few, since they are so central to the Christian faith, make plain the importance of the familiar Christmas story. Each year we read Matthew and Luke gladly and hear their Christmas message. This lesson may show that we may hear the stories not only gladly but also intelligently.

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And Yours At Christmas And
Throughout The New Year!

Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year



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