

## **"Jesus' Birth"**

Series: *The Gospel of Luke*

Luke 2:1-20

December 2, 2018

### ***Four important things about this passage...***

- 1) It's historical  
Luke 2:1-2
- 2) It's prophetic  
Luke 2:11; Micah 5:2
- 3) It's glorious  
Luke 2:13-14
- 4) It's benevolent  
Luke 2:11-12, 14

### ***Seven important aspects of the birth of Christ...***

- 1) A census was taken  
Luke 2:1-4; Galatians 4:4; Romans 1:16
- 2) Jesus Christ is from the tribe of Judah  
Genesis 49:10
- 3) Jesus Christ was born in the City of David – Bethlehem  
Micah 5:2
- 4) Jesus Christ was born into the line David  
Luke 2:5; Matthew 1:25; Luke 1:35
- 5) Jesus Christ was born  
Luke 2:6-7; Isaiah 40:8; John 7:46; Philippians 2:8
- 6) The shepherds came  
Luke 2:8

### ***Three reasons God came to the shepherds first...***

- 1) God comes to the lowly  
Proverbs 27:23-24; 1 Corinthians 1:26-27
- 2) God has the same job description as the shepherds  
John 10:11

3) God uses the lambs prophetically  
John 1:29

7) The angels appeared  
Luke 2:9-14

### ***Three responses...***

1) Forget human beings  
Luke 2:15-16; Hebrews 13:15; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Acts 26:28; Acts 24:25

2) Run and find people  
John 4:28; Luke 2:17

3) Proclaim it to anybody who will listen that there's forgiveness  
Luke 2:18-20; Psalm 84:3; Malachi 4:2

### **Growth Group Questions**

For the week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

#### **QUICK REVIEW**

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

#### **MY STORY**

1. Does your family read the 'Christmas Story' from Luke 2 before Christmas dinner? Who usually reads it? Do you have any memories of past loved ones reading this story and it being very meaningful to you? Explain.

2. What is one way your hometown is different now than when you grew up? Does it still feel like 'home' to you? Why or why not?

#### **DIGGING DEEPER**

1. In what sense did God actually become a man?

#### **Philippians 2:7**

<sup>7</sup> Rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

#### **Hebrews 4:15**

<sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.

**Galatians 4:4**

<sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.

**Romans 8:3**

<sup>3</sup> For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh.

Do you think Jesus could have sinned?

In the painful times of your life, does it help to know Jesus experienced greater pain as a human being than you will ever experience? Why or why not?

2. What were people saying about Jesus' words?

**Luke 4:22**

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

**Psalms 45:2**

<sup>2</sup> You are the most excellent of men  
and your lips have been anointed with grace,  
since God has blessed you forever.

**Mark 6:2**

<sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.  
"Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?"

**Luke 2:47**

<sup>47</sup> Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Give an example of gracious words.

If a person known to be homosexual came into our church service on Sunday, would you greet that person? What do you think Jesus would do?

3. Who does Jesus choose to use in powerful ways?

**1 Corinthians 1:27**

<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

**Psalm 8:2**

<sup>2</sup> Through the praise of children and infants  
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,  
to silence the foe and the avenger.

**Matthew 11:25**

<sup>25</sup> At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

**James 2:5**

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?

What if Jesus had come to the scholars of Athens or the gladiators of Rome or the religious people of Jerusalem rather than the lowly? How would He be viewed?

God loves using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. Should a believer ever say "I can't..." when God has clearly asked him/her to do it? Explain.

4. Why is the image of Jesus as "Good Shepherd" comforting to us, as His sheep?

**John 10:11**

<sup>11</sup> "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."

**Isaiah 40:11**

<sup>11</sup> He tends his flock like a shepherd:  
He gathers the lambs in his arms  
and carries them close to his heart;  
he gently leads those that have young.

**1 Peter 2:25**

<sup>25</sup> For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

**Revelation 7:17**

<sup>17</sup> "For the Lamb at the center of the throne  
will be their shepherd;  
'he will lead them to springs of living water.'  
'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

What do you know about sheep? Why is that a good image to describe us as believers?

Have you ever been afraid, prayed and immediately felt God's comfort? Explain.

5. Some unbelievers feel there will always be time to come to Christ later in their lives. What do these verses say?

**2 Corinthians 6:2**

<sup>2</sup>For he says,

"In the time of my favor I heard you,  
and in the day of salvation I helped you."

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

**Isaiah 55:6**

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call on him while he is near.

**Hebrews 3:13**

<sup>13</sup>But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

**Psalms 32:6**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore let all the faithful pray to you  
while you may be found;  
surely the rising of the mighty waters  
will not reach them.

What motivates you to share your faith? If you rarely do so, what inhibits you?

Which unbelieving friend or family member would you most like to accept Christ?

**TAKING IT HOME**

Based on this week's sermon and homework, what is the most important thing for you to remember and why?