

## Luke 2

And it came to pass in those days *that* a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. <sup>3</sup> So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. <sup>7</sup> And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

1. The Christmas story is much more than the beautiful season of decorations, lights and gifts
2. It's the Wonderful intervention of God for His creation
3. Since Adam walked away from God, man got way off track

- a. God began preparing humanity with pictures and types to prepare us for Jesus
  - i. The skin covering for Adam was the first picture
  - ii. Noah's Ark is a picture of Jesus
  - iii. Abraham's sacrifice with Isaac
  - iv. Passover
  
- b. To drive the point even further, God sends the law to bring us to Christ,
  - i. The list of do's & don'ts
    - 1. Its designed to bring humanity back to God
  
    - 2. Religion adds to the law and gets more off track
  
- c. God sent messenger after messenger saying the Messiah will be here soon
  
- d. No one took notice
  - i. All went about their business as usual
    - 1. That meant getting way off track
      - a. Man is lost & doesn't know it
  
- 4. God sends angels to get our attention
  - a. Voices from heaven helping us find our way
  
  - b. **GPS** - Global positioning system
  
- 5. This GPS system seems to be causing more chaos than good initially
  - a. Gabriel appears to Zechariah and tells him a son will be born
    - i. Now?
    - ii. After all these years?

- b. Gabriel appears to Mary to tell her that she'll have a Son who is the savior; The Son of God
    - i. Now?
    - ii. I'm engaged to be married soon
      - 1. What would people think?
      - 2. What will Joseph think?
    - iii. **Joseph** - who would believe him?
      - 1. It seemed like the worst time ever
      - 2. People would think either he's the father - fornication
      - 3. Or they may think that Mary lived a double life
  - c. A few months later, Caesar calls for a Census
    - i. Now?
    - ii. Bethlehem is about 80 miles away on from Nazareth & Mary is about due to have her baby
      - 1. Now?
  - d. They look for room in the Inn and it was full
    - i. Of all the times for this inconvenience
      - 1. Now?
        - a. "God, are you sure this is how things should be?"
6. In the natural, everything that could go wrong was going wrong
- a. But God is in heaven and directing these events

## 7. **GPS**

- i. Good news
- ii. Proclamation to the unexpected
- iii. Salvation for all people

## **I. Good news**

### **a. All things** work together for good... (Romans 8:28)

- i. Zechariah had to wait for the events to take place for his son John to be born
- ii. Mary had to be still single so that Jesus would be conceived by the Holy Spirit
- iii. The census had to happen now so that Joseph would leave Nazareth & Jesus would be born in Bethlehem; fulfilling scripture
- iv. The Inn was full so that a stable would be available
  1. So that all who wanted, could approach and visit the New King
  2. If our King was born in a palace, only royalty would be able to approach Him
    - a. He humbled Himself and was born with barn animals so that all could approach Him
- v. Sometimes, things happen at the most awkward times
  1. That's part of God's plan to make it all work
    - a. So long as I'm not manipulating the issue, I'm to trust God and only believe
- vi. We went from
  1. Failing business
  2. Church that split
  3. Financial hardship

a. We wondered, what is going on?

vii. Good news is that all things work together for my good

**b. Good news is that now God is near**

i. He initiates the relationship

ii. It comes in one of the most intimate forms of human relationships

1. A mother with her first born child

2. There is nothing more precious than that

a. Holding the Son of God with the tenderness and love of a mother helps us understand the tender heart of God who wants to hold us the same way

3. **Isaiah 49:15** "Can a woman forget her nursing child, or lack compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these forget, yet I will not forget you

iii. God is not far as people once thought

iv. When Adam sinned, he thought God was angry with him and he hid

1. Instead, God said "Adam, where are you"

a. Come back to me

b. You walked away, come home

v. **Psalms 145:18** The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth

- vi. Knowing that King Jesus is near and wants to hold us as a mother holds a child is good news

## **II. Proclamation to the unexpected**

- a. Angels appear to shepherds in the field
- b. Why shepherds?
  - i. Bible Almanac – Shepherds were distrusted in Jesus' day as being a wild bunch (**Bell**)
  - ii. They were outcasts of society
    - 1. Jews didn't respect them
    - 2. Egyptians thought they were an abomination
      - a. They are outcasts

### **3. God delights in the outcasts**

- 4. God loves taking in the forgotten
- iii. The proclamation of the good news usually goes to the unexpected
  - 1. Weakest, the ignored, the youngest first
    - a. Jacob was the youngest
    - b. Gideon was the weakest
    - c. Hannah was barren & made fun of
    - d. David was forgotten by his family
- iv. Yet something is obvious in these characters
- v. In their weak condition, the Bible mentions important elements in their life
  - 1. Jacob sought a blessing from God

2. Gideon was searching for bread
  3. Hannah poured her heart out in prayer
  4. David worshiped the Lord
  5. The shepherds were watching by night
- c. We may be of the unexpected category
- i. We can learn from the examples in scripture
    1. Seek God
    2. Search out for bread
    3. Pray
    4. Worship
    5. Watch - be alert
- d. Because the proclamation is for you
- i. If you are weak, forgotten, made fun of
    1. Allow your faith to rise this morning and take this word for you
      - a. God wants to proclaim this good news to you

### III. Salvation for all people

- a. Vs. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.
- b. This child is born as a gift to you
- c. The key is for all people
  - i. **John 3:16** For God so loved the world...
  - ii. **2 Pet 3:9** {The Lord} is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance
- d. We can use the word rescued to explain salvation

- e. When someone is drifting in the ocean, to rescue them is to save them
- f. This is the picture of what God is doing with the arrival of the new born child in Bethlehem
  - i. He's bringing the rescuer; savior
- g. He rescued humanity from the grip of sin
  - i. Salvation became up close and personal
  - ii. God became human to relate to us and take our place
  - iii. Illustration:
    - 1. A hospital patient was in an accident and is left with the sense of smell only. Her mother wanted to communicate her presence, so used a perfume the girl would remember as her mom's. Now the perfume is not the mother's essential nature, but is an extension of her real self to communicate on the girl's level. God also is not essentially a body, but he became human. He extended Himself to communicate on our level so we could respond. (**Bell**)
  - iv. A gift to relate to, learn from, and believe in
  - v. Believe that He is the substitution who takes our place and gives us His
- h. No one is beyond the gift of God's Grace
  - i. The only barrier is man's will



- i. God wants to redirect some lives today
  - i. Good news**
    - 1. All things work together for our good
    - 2. God is near
  
  - ii. Proclamation**
    - 1. For the weak, forgotten
  
  - iii. Salvation**
    - 1. For all people
      - a. That includes saving your entire person
        - i. Spirit, soul & body
  
- j. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.