

Series Logo

Luke 2:10-12

“10 But the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: 11 Today in the city of David a **Savior** was born for you, who is the **Messiah**, the **Lord**. 12 This will be the **sign** for you: You will find a **baby** wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a **manger**.”

Luke is telling us that the **particular circumstances of Jesus’ birth are significant**

IMAGE: secret service, marine one, limo and from week 1

IMAGE: MANGER IMAGE from week 1

Luke 2:1-7

“1 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole empire should be registered. 2 This first registration took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called **Bethlehem**, because he was of the house and family line of David, 5 to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was **pregnant**. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a **manger**, because there was **no guest room available for them**.”

At some point we will be involved in **circumstances that seem to **contradict** the character, promises and purpose of God**

The manger: what seems like the **absence of God’s presence is actually the **sign** of it**

(One statement with the first half coming up on the first click, and the second half (and the manger) coming up on the next click)

The manger displays the **humility of Jesus *and* the manger is meant to inspire humility **in us****

Luke 2:7

7 Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

(All on one slide, centered on screen)

Inn

Cave

House

IMAGE: Jewish Home 1

<https://www.psephizo.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/P1130012.jpg>

IMAGE: Jewish Home 2

<https://www.psephizo.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/1st-Century-Home-In-Israel.jpg>

(One statement with the first half coming up on the first click, and the second half (...And we) coming up on the next click)

You never know how small, unseen, insignificant moments may be playing a part in God's plans...And we often overlook these moments

1) Is your life open enough for a manger moment?

(One slide, Each line comes up one at a time, centered on screen)

my plans v God's timing

my pace v God's ways

my pride v God's providence

James 4:6

6 But he gives greater grace. Therefore he says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

2) Small, unseen, insignificant acts of faith and obedience will shape the direction of your life

Galatians 6:7-10

7 Don't be **deceived**: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, 8 because the one who **sows to his flesh** will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who **sows to the Spirit** will reap eternal life from the Spirit. 9 Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. 10 Therefore, as we have **opportunity**, let us **work** for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith.

3) Hear the **gospel invitation from the host**

John 14:15-17, 23

“If you love me, you will keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be **with you** forever. He is the Spirit of truth. The world is **unable** to receive him because it doesn't **see** him or **know** him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be **in you**”...“Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will **come to him and make our home with him.**”

(One slide, second half of statement (, and neither) comes up with second click)

I wasn't too small, unseen, or insignificant to God to experience the presence of Jesus, and neither are you!

(NOTE SLIDE: please have a slide with the note COMMUNION to remind me)